

State polls debacle for Gandhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, suffered a severe setback yesterday in two key state elections. In Andhra Pradesh her Congress Party was trounced by Mr N. T. Rama Rao, a popular film actor, in neighbouring Karnataka, Congress seemed certain to lose power. The results will embolden Gandhi opponents within and without the party.

BBC retaliates against Poland

The BBC is withdrawing facilities provided for Polish broadcasters in retaliation for Poland's refusal to renew the visa of its correspondent in Warsaw, Kevin Ruan, who returns to Britain today. The BBC will also not support British visa applications by Polish journalists.

Rail fares rise

British Rail fares will rise by an average of 7 per cent on Sunday, the first increase for 14 months and the lowest for 10 years. Railcards and long-distance saver fares are unchanged.

Mother accused

The mother of a 10-year-old girl who died after being struck in a cupboard was charged at Hagondange, France, with manslaughter leading to her death.

Pipeline attack

Anti-communist Mozambican rebels have again sabotaged the oil pipeline to Zimbabwe, exacerbating the country's already grave fuel situation.

THE SUNDAY TIMES Saturday

Holed below, the waterline by the rocks of the recession, Britain's boat-building industry is attempting to refloat itself. In the first week of the annual Boat Show, tomorrow's edition of *Saturday*, the leisure and arts section published each week with *The Times*, offers advice to those thinking of taking the sailing and boating. *Saturday's* motoring column examines the prospects for BL's forthcoming 'Maestro' saloon; the travel page deals with the Holy Land; and the arts section provides a guide to the coming week's events.

Satellite 'safe'

A senior space official in Moscow has denied American reports that a Soviet satellite was out of control and likely to crash later this month. He said that it was safe and working normally.

Monopoly veto

Sears Holdings is considering a bid for Empire Stores after the Monopolies Commission blocked Great Universal Stores' offer for the mail order group.

Cup challenge

David Miller writes on the magic of the challenge for the America's Cup and the yachtsmen whose nerve will not let the outcome of a multi-million dollar venture.

Will he now have a COMPETITION to redesign all the SHIPS and PLANES?

HESELTINE MOVES TO DEFENCE

Leader page 11. Letters: On steel, from Mr Martin Upham, and Mr J K Robertson; divorce, from Mr David Green and Mr C H Wilson. Leading articles: Cabinet changes, unemployment figures, matrimonial homes. Features, pages 8 and 10. Ralf Dahrendorf explains how Britain could lead the world out of the jobs crisis; The EEC and the Third World; A narrow vote for nuclear deterrence; Dancing to fitness. Obituary, page 12. Dr Bruce Mason, Air Commodore J C Quintnell.

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Heseltine gets defence post in restrained reshuffle

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister last night announced the long-awaited reshuffle of the Ministry of Defence. Heseltine, who was Minister of State for Defence, will replace Lord Trenchard as Minister of State for Defence Procurement. Lord Trenchard leaves the Government. Mr Pattie is replaced by Mr Ian Stewart, a backbencher who has been serving as the Chancellor of the Exchequer's parliamentary private secretary.

To help in this task, Mrs Thatcher has promoted Mr Geoffrey Pattie from Parliamentary Under-Secretary at Defence to replace Lord Trenchard as Minister of State for Defence Procurement. Lord Trenchard leaves the Government. Mr Pattie is replaced by Mr Ian Stewart, a backbencher who has been serving as the Chancellor of the Exchequer's parliamentary private secretary.

The other changes of significance take in the Home Office and the Ministry for Overseas Development. Mr Timothy Raison leaves the Home Office to become Minister for Overseas Development with an expansion of his responsibilities. He replaces Mr Neil Marien, who is not standing for re-election as MP for Banbury at the next election. Mr Marien is to receive a knighthood for his services.

He is replaced at the Home Office by Mr David Waddington, the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary at Employment. The Home Secretary, who is dealing with the Police Bill and the Data Protection Bill, has been given the services of an extra Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Mr David Mellor, who moves from the same post at the Department of Energy.

The Prime Minister has decided to compensate for the increase in ministerial staff at the Home Office by cutting the number of ministers at Environment. Lord Belwin, a Parliamentary Under-Secretary at Environment, has been promoted to take Mr King's place as Minister of State, but he is not himself replaced in the junior ministerial post at the department.

Mr John Selwyn Gummer, a long-time friend of Mrs Thatcher's, has been promoted to Parliamentary Under-Secretary at Employment, in place of Mr Waddington. The Earl of Avon replaces Mr Mellor as Parliamentary Under-Secretary at Energy.

Heseltine profile, page 2. Leading article, page 11.

Thatcher blamed for rift with Arabs

By Leslie Plummer

Two days of intense diplomatic efforts to stem the deterioration in Arab-British relations have so far brought only deadlock, according to informed Arab sources.

There will be no Gulf tour by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, until the aborted visit of an Arab League delegation to London takes place, and the Arab League will not visit London without some form of Palestinian Liberation Organization representation, a senior Arab diplomat in London told *The Times* yesterday.

The high-ranking diplomat, who asked not to be named, said that although the Foreign Office had been meeting Arab diplomats in London over the past two days to try to repair the damage caused by Britain's refusal to meet a delegation including the PLO, the Arabs sense of having been affronted reached a point at which they could not back down on the issue of PLO representation. (The delegation included Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and the PLO).

Jagnar sets an overseas sales record

Jagnar Cars, part of the state-owned BL group, yesterday announced record overseas sales of 15,300 cars in 1982, an increase of 56 per cent.

The biggest success was in the United States where sales more than doubled to 10,349. In 1980, Jagnar's US sales were only about 3,000.

In the United Kingdom, sales totalled 6,445 last year, a rise of 14 per cent, and the company now claims control of more than half of the luxury saloon market.

Blackpool police tell of sea disaster

By Michael Horsnell, Arthur Osman and Ronald Kershaw

Two young policemen who survived the heavy seas at Blackpool in which three of their colleagues and another man were lost on Wednesday described their 30-minute struggle yesterday, as the search for bodies continued.

The tragedy, which began when Mr Alastair Anthony jumped into the sea to save his dog, yesterday prompted the launch of an appeal fund by Mr Thomas Percival, the town's mayor.

Yesterday a search by 80 police officers of the 15-mile coastline between St Anne's and Fleetwood discovered the warrant card, and the woman Police Constable Angela Bradley on a beach at Fleetwood, 10 miles from the scene, with the body of Henry, the Jack Russell terrier which leaped into the sea

Two RUC men shot dead by gang

Two policemen were shot dead by an armed gang which was about to raid Rostrevor village post office in Co Down, Northern Ireland, yesterday.

The victims of the killings, the first in the province this year, belonged to the District Mobile Support Unit, which is the Royal Ulster Constabulary's equivalent of the Special Patrol Group.

The two dead policemen were Sergeant Eric Brown, aged 41, of Moria, and Reserve Constable Brian Quinn, aged 23, single, from Bangor, both Co Down. Sergeant Browne was married with three teenage daughters.

Both men were stationed at New, 10 miles away. The officers were shot in the centre of Rostrevor, near Warrenpoint, Co Down. A third RUC man survived the attack and was recovering in hospital last night. They did not even have a chance to draw their guns, a senior RUC spokesman said.

The killings drew an angry response from the Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist MP, who demanded that the new Northern Ireland Assembly should set up a security committee.

Mr Paisley could force the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr James Prior, to introduce tougher tactics against terrorists.

The armed men were in a silver Escort opposite the post office when they were approached by one of the uniformed policemen. They shot the first policeman in the shoulder and then turned their guns on the other. The man who had pulled up in front of him. The officers in the car died immediately; one was in the back seat and the other in the front.

The RUC spokesman said: "They were on patrol checking cars and keeping watch on banks and post offices. The gang

Continued page 2, col 4

Danish skipper faces magistrates today

From Ronald Faux, North Shields

Captain Kent Kirk, the protesting Danish fisherman and Euro-MP, was duly intercepted by the Royal Navy yesterday after he had begun fishing within the British 12-mile limit.

The Danish skipper, who is defying the British limit in order to question new EEC regulations in the European Court, agreed to be escorted to North Shields, where he landed last night.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said last night that Mr Bill Bridge, a district inspector based in North Shields, had applied to the local magistrates court for a summons to be served on Captain Kirk. A hearing before the North Shields magistrates has been fixed for 2 pm today. He could be fined a maximum of £50,000.

Captain Kirk's 140-ton trawler, *Sand Kirk*, arrived off the North East coast after a stormy 48 hour passage from Esbjerg. It was shadowed by the Fishery Protection vessel HMS Dumbarton Castle and an Islander aircraft operating for the ministry.

Dumbarton Castle is one of the 16 fishery protection vessels based at the site.

Rain squalls swept the area and strong winds spread long flecks of spume across the sea surface as Captain Kirk's small convoy closed the coast. About 25 journalists, who had suffered the rough crossing from Denmark, watched from one of the three vessels accompanying the *Sand Kirk* as the Danish trawler shot its nets about nine miles from the coast of the River Tyne.

Half a dozen aircraft and helicopters circled the vessel and from one of them I could clearly see the other boards from the *Sand Kirk* being drawn along in the wake of the vessel and the line going down to her trawl.

The small, black-hulled vessel pitched through the rough seas for an hour while the grey shade of the Dumbarton Castle stood off about a mile away.

Then the *Islander* made a series of low passes over the trawler to photograph her and to check positively that she was fishing inside the exclusive zone.

After this, the Fishery Protection vessel moved in, lowering an inflatable craft carrying a group of officers when she was 400 yards from the *Sand Kirk*. The craft bounced across the rough sea to the trawler and two officers were helped on board by Captain Kirk himself. According to reports the welcome was cordial and followed by a "splendid fish lunch".

Hopes pinned on European Court

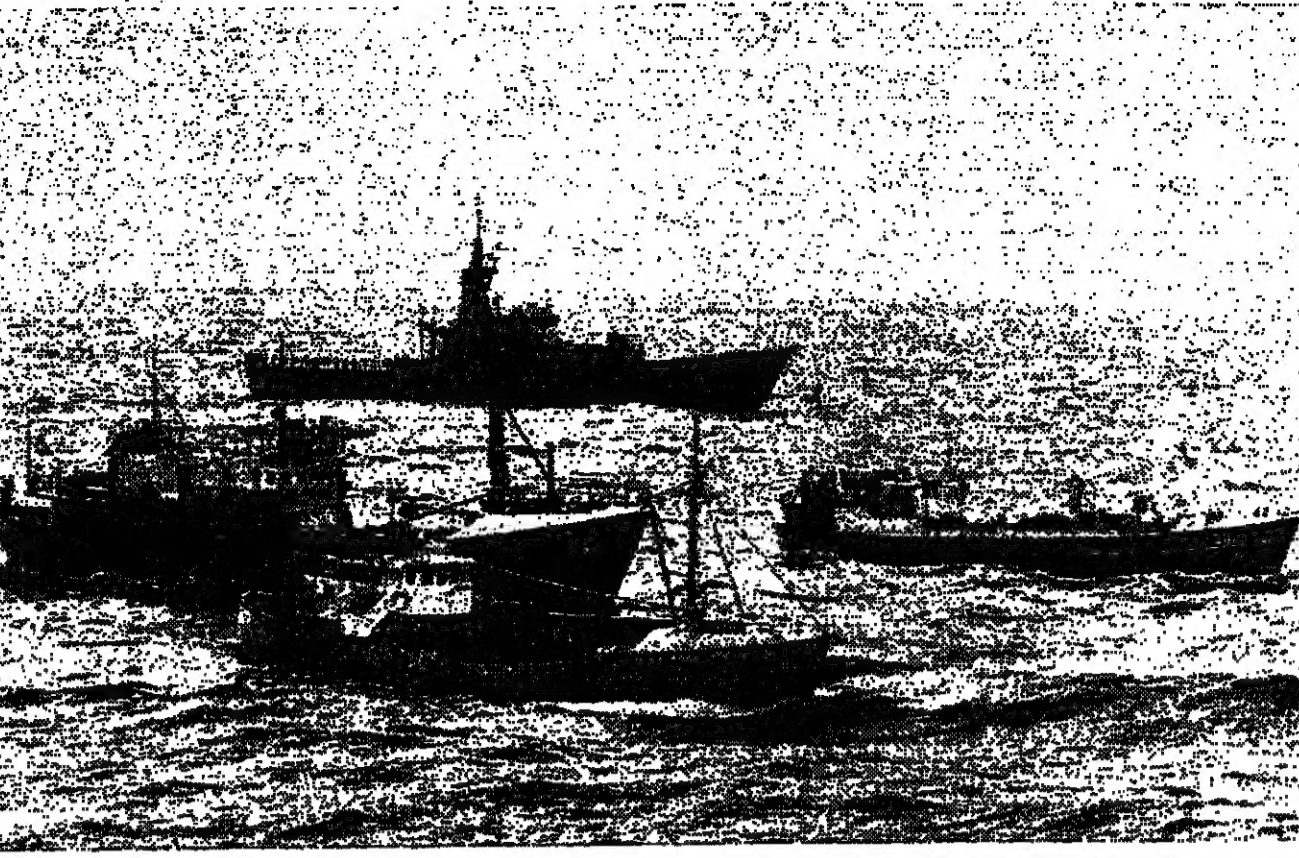
Denmark now pins all its hopes on a judgment from the European Court. (Ian Murray writes) After two hours of tough talks in Brussels yesterday, Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish Foreign Minister, admitted that he felt "completely isolated". But he was still determined to fight against the "lousy deal" he believed Denmark had been offered.

He is to resume his talks with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher the West German Foreign Minister, now President of the EEC Council of Ministers, in Strasbourg next Tuesday. Herr Genscher said after yesterday's meeting that he was "moderately optimistic" of reaching a settlement, but "renegotiations would be an inappropriate word for the meeting".

Mr Ellemann-Jensen said he felt Denmark was "very seriously" threatened by the force of the British Government. He added: "As we see it, the national measures are against the Community spirit in picking out one country."

He deplored the action of Captain Kirk, and said this sort of action did nothing but raise the anger of the British people at a time when he was trying to keep the situation calm. Nevertheless, he promised that his Government would give Mr Kirk full backing if he tried to fight his case through to the European Court.

Continued on page 2, col 6



The Sand Kirk (right) escorted to shore by HMS Dumbarton Castle (rear) - Photograph by Harry Kerr.

Reagan is cautious on Soviet initiative

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Concerned that recent Soviet initiatives have won Moscow too many important propaganda gains, President Reagan has adopted a conciliatory attitude on East-West issues where answering questions from reporters during his first press conference of 1983 on Wednesday night.

Mr Reagan said he was in favour "in principle" of attending a summit conference with Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, so long as it was clear that such a meeting would achieve results. He also welcomed Mr Andropov's suggestion about continuing talks of reducing the two super-powers' nuclear arsenals.

He added that the latest Warsaw Pact proposal for a non-aggression agreement with Nato would be considered but would require consultation with America's Western allies.

Despite the conciliatory tone of his remarks, White House officials emphasized after the news conference that the President continued to be suspicious of Soviet intentions.

He would need to see tangible evidence of Soviet sincerity before agreeing to participate in a summit meeting, they said. In particular, an improvement in the situation in Afghanistan was a precondition.

The President avoided going into specifics on any East-West issue during his press conference, most of which was devoted to economic and other domestic questions.

Aides said that if he had gone into details on issues such as nuclear arms reductions, his remarks might have appeared to sound negative in contrast to the positive message which have been coming from Moscow since Mr Andropov came to power.

The United States response to the Warsaw Pact's non-aggression offer has been decidedly cool. Officials noted that it was an old idea which had previously been rejected by Western countries.

European reaction: Western governments' promises yesterday to study the call for a non-aggression treaty, but many officials doubted it would help East-West relations (Reuters reports).

The warmest reaction came from West Germany, where Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, said the Warsaw Pact had edged closer to accepting some Western ideas on disarmament. But he made no specific reference to non-aggression treaty.

France said the best way of furthering peace was to accept existing obligations, not to add new peace pledges to those already contained in the United Nations charter.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said Britain would give the suggestion "serious consideration".

Details of proposals, page 11. Chart, page 13.

Jobless total up by another 34,000

By Michael Prest

Government hopes that unemployment might be on a clearly declining trend were dashed yesterday when the Department of Employment announced that the number of people in Britain out of work rose by 34,000 in December to 3,096,997, or 13.3 per cent of the workforce.

It is the highest unemployment level in postwar years and there is no doubt that the total will continue to rise. But the government takes some comfort from the fact that changes in the method of calculating the number of jobless mean that the rate of increase is not necessarily accelerating.

Nevertheless, Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, admitted that the figures were "disappointing". He said that the December increase was "part of the see-saw nature of the unemployment situation and perhaps partly a reflection of the unsettled nature of the labour market around Christmas".

But Mr Eric Varley, the Opposition spokesman on employment, called on Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, to sack Mr Tebbit. Mr Varley claimed that the true unemployment figure was 3,299,300. This is what it would have been had the Government not changed its basis for calculation last October. The number of unemployed a year ago, recalculated on the new basis, was 2,63 million or 11.1 per cent.

The 3,096,997 total includes school leavers.

Leading article, page 11. Chart, page 13.

Details of proposals, page 11.

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Arts award for steel band leader

The Arts Council is to award a bursary of £5,300 to the Steelband Association of Great Britain to enable Mr Geddes Yates, a Manchester band leader, to train as a steel pan tuner in the West Indies for six months.

Mr Yates, aged 36, from Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, was employed for several years by the local education authority to teach steel pan playing in schools, and has retained close links with some schools as an adviser.

The Arts Council says it hopes the training will enable Mr Yates to work as a pan tuner in the North-west, especially Manchester, where there are a large number of steel bands but few skilled pan tuners.

Mr Yates, who was chosen from a final short-list of three, came from Arima, Trinidad, on January 15.

Butlin painting worth £50,000

"Lamentation of Christ", a painting that hung on the chapel wall at the Butlin holiday camp at Pwllheli, north Wales, for 30 years, could fetch more than £50,000 when it is auctioned this summer, the company disclosed yesterday.

Both Phillips and Christie's have agreed that the painting, by William Dyce, a nineteenth-century artist, was not so severely damaged as was thought, after water damage caused by a storm which felled the chapel roof three years ago.

New Scottish Socialist group

The Scottish Socialist Society will be formally launched in the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow, on January 29.

Mr Stephen Maxwell, society convenor, said, "This is a genuine attempt to create a forum and a campaigning credibility on issues which cross party boundaries."

The launching of the society follows a long struggle in the Scottish National Party between traditionalists, who see independence as the party's sole aim, and the now banned left-wing and republican 79 Group.

Rape case judge indisposed

Judge Stanley Price, QC, who imposed a four-month prison sentence on a man charged with raping a girl aged six because he thought that the man was not ill of rape but of indecent assault, will not sit at York Crown Court this week because he is indisposed.

His wife said he was handling probate matters at a meeting in Northampton yesterday. The case caused the Prime Minister to say that in future only senior judges should try rape cases.

Ben Nevis gale kills rescuers

Rescuers searching for two men missing on Ben Nevis were forced off the mountain yesterday for the second day running by winds and snow.

The search will resume today as Aidan Shearer, aged 22, and Poff Whytt, aged 19, who were separated from the rest of a group of climbers from Ulster yesterday.

In the Cairngorms yesterday, RAF helicopter rescued two men suffering from exposure.

Horland returns

North Sea Ferries' vessel, Horland, requisitioned by the government for the Falklands conflict, is returning from service in the South Atlantic.

The ferry is expected in her home port of Hull on February 1.

Claims speed up as pay offers hover at 4%

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The pay bargaining round gathered pace yesterday amid clear indications that groups of workers with industrial muscle can expect offers of no more than 4 per cent until the water workers' negotiations are more sharply defined.

More than 40,000 gas workers yesterday received offers ranging between £3.29 a week and £4.46 a week which are worth just under 4 per cent on earnings. Further talks are to be held later in the month after the union's rejection of the offer.

The ballot of the 30,000 water workers on their 4 per cent offer has been completed. The results, which are expected to show an overwhelming vote for industrial action if the offer is not improved, are to be announced today.

While other large groups of workers formulated their pay claims, leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions formally ratified acceptance, with the exception of one union, of the 4.8 per cent offer on basic rates for more than one million engineering workers.

The General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union is expected officially to announce its support today.

Leaders of Britain's 50,000 power workers, who would expect to receive a settlement in line with water and gas workers yesterday submitted a five-point claim, including a substantial increase in pay which is thought to be similar to the miners' 6.5 to 7.1 per cent deal.

Union leaders representing 530,000 white-collar civil servants finally agreed a joint claim to submit to the Government although it will have to be formally ratified by a full

meeting of the Council of Civil Service Unions next Tuesday. It is thought to follow a compromise formula of 5 per cent plus £10 a week.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) yesterday approved a claim for 70,000 clerical workers in the five main banks of £10 a week or 9 per cent, which ever is the greater.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of the union, said last night: "We estimate that the main clearing banks in 1982 will have made profits of £1,500m and there can be no excuse for not meeting our very reasonable claim."

The executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, which represents nearly 2,500,000 manufacturing industry workers yesterday unanimously decided to instruct district committees and advise the 17 individual unions to oppose the Government's job-splitting scheme (the Press Association reports).

Three hundred seamen at Harwich yesterday voted overwhelmingly to reject Sealink's proposal to cut 130 jobs to save the Hook of Holland service which has been losing £3m a year, according to the company (Our Colchester Correspondent writes).

Miners leaders in South Wales will decide next week whether to call a coalfield strike after a meeting in London on Monday with Mr Norman Siddall, chairman of the National Coal Board. The union officials have a mandate to halt production in the area from January 17 unless they obtain assurances over investment and recruitment (Tim Jones writes from Cardiff).

Ministers were reported yesterday to be "angry and disturbed" over selective leaks from the Serpell report, which they assume to have been the work of British Rail to influence public opinion against the report.

It was emphasized in the highest government circles that the Serpell options, for a reduced network or higher commuter fares, were not recommendations, and that no decisions had been taken on them by the Government.

The British Railways Board, considering the report at its first full meeting yesterday, was said to be disappointed over its quality and tone, and was determined to fight the negative view it took of railways in Britain.

A board member said: "We can not brush this off, but it is not a defeat; we shall come back fighting. Serpell is an important set of state papers, but not as good as it ought to be."

One of Serpell's suggestions "commercial railway", which it says would not only eliminate the £800m a year subsidy but make a small profit. It would be a 1,600-mile network compared with the present 10,000, and Scotland (apart from Edinburgh and Glasgow) and Wales (apart from Cardiff) would be totally denuded of railway. England is reduced to a core network radiating out of London to Norwich, Harwich, Southend, Dover, Folkestone, Eastbourne, Brighton, Bournemouth, Bristol (served by a branch line) and that is the "minimum option" from the report and the committee does not recommend it. Three other options are a modified "version" with more London commuter lines; roughly the present system with "real pricing" (such as a sharp rise in commuter fares reported in *The Times* on Wednesday).

The minimum option could produce a surplus of £30m a year, Serpell suggests, a £60m profit on freight and a £30m loss on passengers.

Man in the news: Michael Heseltine National service officer

By A Staff Reporter

Mr Michael Heseltine's military experience is confined to his years as a national service officer in the Welsh Guards.

The new Secretary of State for Defence, who was born in Swansea almost 50 years ago, was the son of the commander of the local Territorial Army unit.

At 6ft 3in, Mr Heseltine has the trim and alert appearance of a former officer. But the flowing hairstyle that has been his hallmark throughout a 30-year career in politics, remains decidedly unimpaired.

Mr Heseltine is a self-made publisher who entered national politics after helping to create a successful business empire. He has had virtually no direct political experience of defence matters.

He spent much of the Heath government of the early 1970s as a junior minister in the departments of the environment and of trade and industry when they were headed by Mr Peter Walker.

His years under Mrs Margaret Thatcher as Secretary of State for the Environment have ended unhappily with the fiasco of the Trafalgar Square architecture competition. But he is more likely to be remembered as the minister responsible for unleashing the sale of publicly-owned homes, one of the most important housing policy decisions since 1945.

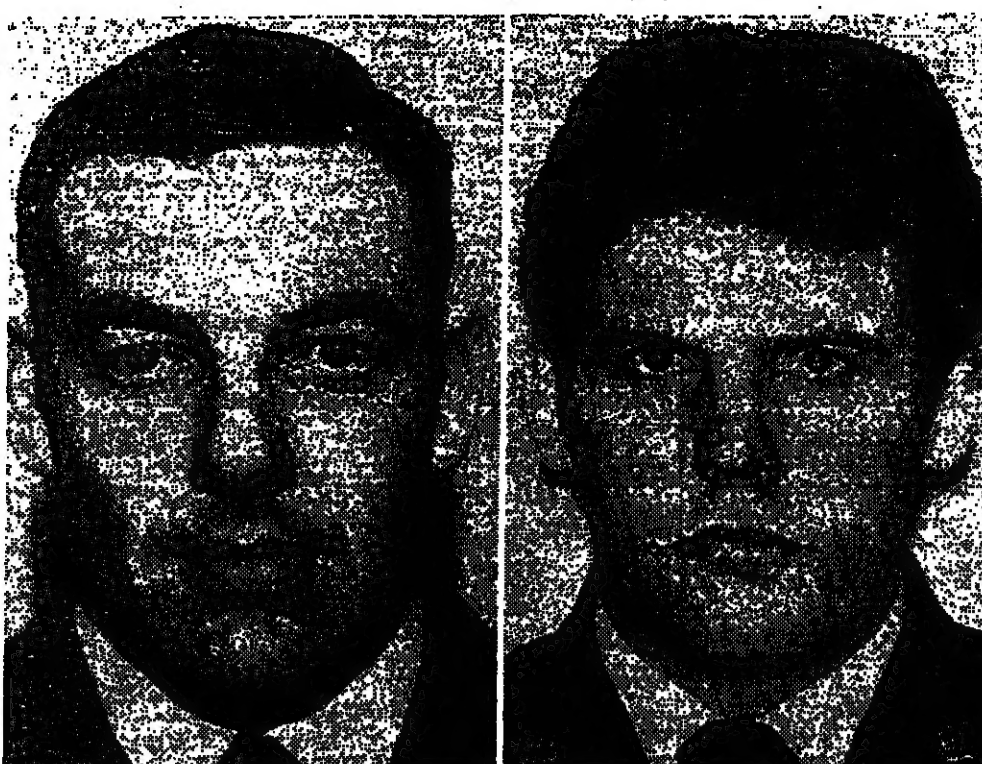
Somerset County Council said that Anthony Forward, aged 35, of Street Road, Glastonbury, and Susie Forward, aged 36, his wife, had applied for fostering in October 1981 and were rejected after inquiries were made.

Early last year the couple answered a television advertisement and applied to a London borough which checked with Somerset and were told that they were considered unsuitable.

Mr Roger Smith, for Somerset County Council, said: "The Children's Country Holiday Fund placed these children with Mr and Mrs Forward without any reference to us."

Somerset social services department said it had been in touch with the London-based charity and were told that discussions had started to ensure that local authorities were involved in its checking procedure.

At Taunton Crown court on Wednesday, Forward received a four-year prison sentence.



Ambush victims: Sergeant Eric Brown (left) and Reserve Constable Brian Quinn.

RUC men shot dead by gang

Continued from page 1

was obviously preparing to carry out a raid but was interrupted."

Mr Anthony Williamson, who owns a printing works next door to the post office, said: "It was absolutely terrible, a sad day for the village."

An off-duty nurse, two doctors, and Father Thomas Mooney, a Roman Catholic priest, were among the first to reach the police officers.

Mr Paddy O'Donoghue, a leading member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in the area, said: "The terrorists have displayed a total disregard for the most basic human rights of all, the right to live."

The killers' car was found abandoned five miles away in Warrenpoint, and although no organization has claimed responsibility for the murders, detectives are blaming republicans.

Yesterday's double killing brings the number of police officers - regular and reserve members - murdered in the province during the past 13 years to 175.

Earlier yesterday, in another part of Co Down, a woman had her left leg broken when she was caught in a bomb trap meant for an Ulster Defence Regiment man.

Mrs Eileen McCauley, aged 58, was injured when she opened a gate that had been booby-trapped outside the house where the soldier lived with his mother near Castlewellan. Normally he would have opened the gate on his way to work. But Mrs McCauley, a neighbour who had stayed the night, was the first to use it.

The shooting in Rostrevor came less than 12 hours after a senior RUC officer denied a claim by Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, that the police had entered the "murder game" and that he had forwarded to Mr Prior the name of a Rostrevor man whom, he alleged, was under threat of death from the RUC (Our Belfast correspondent writes).

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MPs query increased college aid claims

By Anthony Bevis Political Correspondent

Nine voluntary colleges of education last March increased their monthly application for government grant from £2.5m to £4.8m, after they had been given a warning by the Department of Education that they would not be allowed to carry forward any unspent allocations for the financial year ending on March 31.

A report from Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General published yesterday, said that the month's increased claims were met in full by the department.

The Commons committee of Public Accounts intends to question Sir James Hamilton, Permanent Secretary at the department, when he examines the matter next month.

The MPs on the all-party select committee have been told by Mr Downey that the department paid recurrent grants of £61.7m to 26 voluntary colleges of further education in 1981-82.

Advances are made in the middle of each month, "on the basis of an institution's estimate of its cash needs until the middle of the following month, allowing for month-end balance of up to 4 per cent of its approved net expenditure for the year."

In March 1981, Mr Downey's exchequer and audit department questioned education officials "about apparently excessive balances" held by three voluntary colleges.

He was told then that the Department of Education was tightening the system of control. But one year later, last March Mr Downey's staff discovered that 12 of the 26 colleges were reporting balances in excess of the 4 per cent limit, and in eight cases that cash balance exceeded 11 per cent of the year's net expenditure.

Mr Downey then reported: "My staff also noted that in a letter dated March 15, 1982, after most colleges had sent in their March funding claims or had given provisional indications of their need, DES had notified many of the colleges of their allocations to March 31, 1982 which remained undrawn."

"Most of the colleges so notified subsequently submitted revised claims, which included nearly all the outstanding allocations."

"In particular, nine colleges whose March claims or provisional indications of need had amounted to some £2.5m but whose undrawn allocations totalled £5.2m, revised their claims to a total of £4.8m. DES paid this amount."

He concluded: DES accepted that they had a responsibility to ensure that the funds advanced to voluntary institutions were no more than was necessary to meet programmed expenditure and provide small working balances.

"To this end they intended to further tighten scrutiny of inconsistencies and abnormal expenditure or receipts in the claim forms."

Appropriation Accounts (Vol 71, Class X) 1981-82. (Stationery Office, £7.40).

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On September 30, the magazine *City Limits* published a report on the papers and extracts from them. The same day the Crown obtained an injunction banning further publication.

All the documents were recovered, Mr Adams said and they were traced to Gordon-Walker.

Evangelical assembly inaugurated

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England inaugurated a new body, the Anglican Evangelical Assembly, to contain the Evangelical movement yesterday.

The assembly is the first body to draw together all the strands of this increasingly influential movement in Anglicanism, and the first to be able to claim that its voice is representative. It was founded by the Church of England Evangelical Council, which was itself becoming regarded as the most representative Evangelical grouping in the church.

The council is now to be reconstituted as the assembly's standing committee, and its new membership will be elected today in the course of the assembly's initial two-day meeting in London.

Evangelicals in the Church of England are the inheritors of the Low Church and Protestant strands in Anglicanism, and are themselves spread between the more conservative and liberal traditions on issues such as Scriptural inerrancy and the strict observance of the 39 Articles.

The assembly itself is the result of national consultations over the past two years, under the auspices of the Church of England Evangelical Council. One of its recommendations was for a permanent and more widely democratic body than the council.

The new assembly therefore draws representatives from diocesan organizations of Evangelicals, from the leading Evangelical societies, and from Evangelical members of the General Synod. The assembly will be the governing body of the new grouping, although constituent societies will retain their autonomy.

The constitution of the assembly emphasizes two distinctively Evangelical doctrines: justification by faith and the non-priestly nature of the ordained ministry. It is committed to work for church unity, and one of the motions to be debated today calls on it to renew its commitment to seek reunion between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic church, while drawing attention to some of the difficulties most acutely felt.

Because of its many different constituents and the lack of an overall body, the Anglican Evangelical movement has had less organized influence in the church than the Anglo-Catholic movement.

The assembly's first official act yesterday was to agree that its proceedings should be conducted in public.

Science report

Conflicting cues from Thatcher

By the Staff of "Nature"

The Prime Minister, has the subject of a psychological analysis because of the way she is constantly interrupted by television interviewers. In contrast to the smooth progress of most other senior politicians.

Detailed analysis of one such interview has revealed that the frequent interruptions were not due to simple bad manners on the part of the interviewer. They occur when Mrs Thatcher gives signs that she has finished speaking when in fact she is far from finished.

The analysis, by Dr G. Beattie of Sheffield University and Dr A. Cantler and Dr M. Pearson of Sussex University, used a videotape of a 1979 independent television interview conducted by Dennis Tuohy.

Forty short extracts containing at least one sentence were selected, 10 just before the conversation passed smoothly from Mrs Thatcher to Mr Tuohy, 20 from the middle of Mrs Thatcher's conversation and 10 just before "disputed turns" when Mr Tuohy tried, but failed, to take the floor.

Observers who had no knowledge of how the conversation continued, were asked to judge whether in each extract Mrs Thatcher appeared to be finishing what she was saying.

A clear-cut difference emerged: Mrs Thatcher appeared to be handing over the conversational turn not only in those cases when she did so, but also in the disputed turns, which is why Mr Tuohy was misled.

Analysis by sound spectrograph and by phonetic transcription showed that conflicting cues as Mrs Thatcher speaks are a misleading indicator of her intention. One cue is a fast drop in pitch that is generally characteristic of a conversational ending, and is given by Mrs Thatcher when she really wants to yield her conversational turn. But although the drop is fast it is not very far. In terms of the level reached, the pitch change is no more than in normal mid-conversation. Misleading pitch changes are not the whole story, however. Even when the television picture was seen without sound, judges agreed with Mr Tuohy about when Mrs Thatcher's turn was finished. In this case inappropriate changes in gaze seem to be to blame.

The study illustrates just how subtle are the signals - given quite unconsciously - that regulate the change of play in conversational ping pong. Knowledge of such signals is used in the treatment of individuals who suffer from a severe inability to sustain normal conversation.

Source: *Nature* Dec 23 vol 300, p 744, 1982.

©Nature-Times News Service 1982

£500 fine for losing classified papers

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Konrad Furs January Sale

This winter you can keep beautifully warm for a lot less than you think...

Because in our January Sale we've got literally hundreds of beautiful furs at prices that make them outstanding value for money.

Whether you come to our West End or Knightsbridge salons, you can choose from London's widest selection of furs.

Jack Glama mink, dark mink, pastel mink, raccoon, wolf, lynx, blue fox, silver fox... cats, three-quarter coats, jackets, strollers... on styles that take you from the classic look right through to the latest high fashion.

And they are all at half the normal price, or less.

Some examples of our January Sale prices, in the West End and Knightsbridge.

Blue Fox Jackets £725 £275
Red Fox Jackets £800 £395
Lynx Jackets £1,100 £425



Everything at 1/2 price or less.

And we offer six months' interest-free credit on any item over £500.

SALE STARTS TOMORROW SAT JAN 8TH 9.30AM - 5.30PM AND OPEN THIS SUNDAY JAN 9TH 10.30AM -

Hygiene prosecution for Brooks's club in new London health law drive

By John Withrow

Brooks's, the London club renowned for its smartness, and where numerous prime ministers and peers have dined during the past 200 years without any apparent ill effects, is to be prosecuted for alleged health and hygiene offences.

Westminster City Council has taken out summonses alleging 30 infringements of food hygiene regulations and a further four under the health and safety at work, and offices, shops and railway premises acts which concern ventilation. In all, the council says the St James's club has "to bring 135 items up to scratch".

The decision to prosecute arose from an inspection last summer by Westminster environmental health officials of several exclusive clubs, as a prelude to the decennial renewal of their liquor licences.

In common with Brooks's, The Travellers (founded in 1819), the Athenaeum (1823) and the Reform (1834) were given until October to improve their premises, which they did and as a result avoided prosecution.

Brooks's (1764), however, was alleged to have transgressed as many regulations as it has members. It was even suggested that mice and cockroaches had been inhabiting the establishment's kitchens, although such allegations at the time did little more than raise a phlegmatic eyebrow or two in the club.

It sought to meet the October deadline by adding ventilation in the kitchen, replacing wall tiles and filling in gullies let into the kitchen floor by several generations ago to carry away water.

The council were nonetheless set on prosecution and the case is set for hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on February 15. In response, Brooks's issued a statement yesterday saying that the club had not yet received summonses and had been advised by its lawyers not to comment.

An official of Westminster council said she thought this was the first time it had prosecuted one of the older clubs and maintained it was not part of a drive against these establishments. The council says there are 400 eating places

under its authority and it has been checking all of them to make sure they come up to standards. There have been hundreds of prosecutions in London in the past year ranging from 'take-away food stores, public houses in the West End, and restaurants and night clubs. One of the council's main targets has been street stalls selling such food as hot dogs and hamburgers.

If Brooks's, which includes the Duke of Devonshire among its members, is found guilty of transgressing the regulations, it could face fines of £10,000, the council said.

It is understood the clubs are incensed at being singled out for what they consider to be over-zealous action by the council. Mr Julian Cotterell, chairman of Brooks's house committee, has said "an old building like Brooks's is not like a modern concrete box. We are run like a business now, not by amateurs as we were in the past. We have a very good chef, a good team, a good catering manager. Everyone has a good meal when they go there."



A watchful eye being kept on items in the postponed exhibition "Kings and Queens - Paintings, Drawings, Miniatures, Sculpture and Portrait Medals" which opens in The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, today. John Singer Sargent's charcoal of "Edward VII on his Death-bed", dated 1910, and Franta Belsky's bronze bust "Her Majesty the Queen", dated 1981, join portraits of almost every monarch and consort since the late Plantagenets. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Equal pay victory for crane operator

From Our Correspondent, Birmingham

A Birmingham industrial tribunal has ruled that Mrs Barbara Jones, aged 23, the operator of a 20-ton overhead crane, was victimized at work for being a woman. The ruling has been made under a little-used section of the Sex Discrimination Act.

Mr Benjamin Price Francis, the tribunal chairman, said that the victimization took place when Mrs Jones was dismissed after making a claim for equal pay. In addition the tribunal ruled that she was unfairly dismissed under the Employment Protection Act, and was entitled to equal pay under the Equal Pay Act.

Her total compensation was £3,013 including £620 back pay for 62 weeks' work at the rate of £10 a week in order to give her equal pay with her former male colleagues.

The tribunal made no award of compensation for victimization but the Equal Opportunities Commission said yesterday that the ruling was important. "Claims of this kind are not made often because they are difficult to prove," it said.

The tribunal was told that Mrs Jones, a mother of two from Tipton, West Midlands, was employed in the Tipton depot of A. T. Arnold (Steel Stockholders) Ltd. She claimed that when she asked for equal pay, Mr Anthony Griffiths, a company director, told her: "You are already well paid for a woman."

The company was not present and was not represented. In a written submission it said however, that Mrs Jones did not do equal work and that she was dismissed because there was insufficient work.

'Anti-war' council bars boy's trip

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

A boy's "trip of a lifetime" needed help with the air fare. But when his foster parents applied for a grant from the family and community services department a sub-committee rejected it.

Mr Roger Wilson, a Liberal member of the sub-committee, said: "I am in no doubt that this application was turned down because the RAF was involved. This was the chance of a lifetime for this young man."

The boy who has not been named, is a member of the Air Training Corps and was recommended for the trip as "a reward for his all-round excellence".

A controversy has arisen after claims that it was rejected after a comment from a Labour councillor: "I suppose they can help him to kill better."

The boy had to find only a small amount of pocket money and 75p a day for meals but

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Peace protesters removed by police

From Our Correspondent, Oxford

Police yesterday removed peace campaigners who occupied the County Hall in Oxford in protest at Oxfordshire County Council's planned sale of land to extend the US air base at Upper Heyford.

The council agreed to the sale of 30 acres of land near the base for about £85,000 to the Ministry of Defence in 1978 and the sale is expected to be completed in the next few days. The protesters, who have set up a peace camp on part of the land at Somerton, are demanding a public inquiry.

Yesterday eight men and two women, one with a baby, sat in the County Hall foyer, chanting and singing peace songs after demanding to see Mr Alan Brown, the council's chief executive.

The protesters were removed by the police after being asked to leave. There were no arrests.

Five peace campaigners camping outside the base at

Upper Heyford yesterday appealed for the right to vote in the Banbury constituency. They claimed at a special electoral hearing at Banbury that their camp was permanent.

Objectors, including Mr Kenneth Axford, the local Conservative agent, and Mr Patrick Quinn, Chairman of Heyford Parish Council, argued that the camp was temporary and illegal.

The electoral registration officer will announce his decision next week.

Security at the United States air base at Greenham Common, near Newbury, Berkshire, is being tightened after the invasion by supporters of the women's peace camp outside the base on New Year's Day.

A spokesman at the base confirmed yesterday that men from the RAF Regiment were being posted to the base, where 96 United States cruise missiles are due to be deployed at the end of the year.

Army blows open van in bomb alert

From Our Correspondent, Hull

Humber police telephoned an Irish woman at her work in Leeds yesterday and told her that her van had blown open near Hull railway station because they thought it might be loaded with explosives.

The green van had a Republic of Ireland registration number and had been left in a bus parking area behind the city's coach station. The police said they could not afford to take chances and put a bomb alert into operation and an Army bomb-disposal unit was called in from Catterick camp, North Yorkshire.

The bus station and surrounding area were cleared and the railway station was closed. Traffic was diverted from the area and fire engines and ambulances were on stand-by. Buses which had left for London and Birmingham were stopped and the passengers questioned.

The Army used a robot to search the vehicle. The rear doors of the van were then blown open and after another robot search the Army moved in. They removed an easy chair and a large quantity of blast-damaged groceries, cosmetics, tins of food, curry powders and sauces from the van. No bomb or explosive materials were found.

The police said they had traced the owner of the vehicle who was a woman from Dublin, aged 27. She had been visiting friends in Hull and had left her van outside the railway station when she caught a train to her work in Leeds that morning. The police declined to name her.

Colliery death

A mine worker died yesterday after he was struck by a runaway rail truck deep underground at Coventry colliery. Mr Keith Hamilton, aged 24 and a father of two was an underground roadway repairer.

Breakfast TV safer out of the kitchen

By Kenneth Gosling

When the BBC starts its breakfast television service in 10 days it would be well for the viewers to heed the advice of experienced engineers and take their sets, along with their breakfast trays, into their living rooms.

For not only will all the appliances in the kitchen make the picture on a portable set difficult to watch, but there are other dangers as well. A BBC engineer said yesterday: "It is highly inadvisable to use a portable receiver, or any receiver, in a kitchen, because of the high likelihood of a greater moisture level."

He agreed with the advice of one company that released a press release headed, "How to avoid breakfast television indigestion."

Estimating that at least 90 per cent of viewers wanting to watch breakfast television in the kitchen will have problems, the company recommends using the main television aerial and an indoor aerial amplifier or, putting up another aerial. Viewers are not recommended to rely on the loop aerial of a portable set.

The danger of moving the set nearer to the kitchen sink, generally near a window, to improve the signal strength, is emphasized.

"This could be highly dangerous if, as a result, the set stands near the sink and water taps. Small and inconspicuous indoor amplifiers with the necessary coaxial cable sockets are available in three models from all good radio and television retailers. Comfortable viewing, even in the kitchen, is then guaranteed, the company says.

Plessey enters satellite communications with Scientific-Atlanta.

This new joint venture will give Plessey a leading capability in both low cost satellite ground station and cable television equipment for the UK and Europe.

As a result of the agreement between the two companies, Plessey Scientific Atlanta will be able to provide a complete capability from TV receive only earth stations and associated cable TV distribution equipment, to fully integrated, digitally-switched satellite communication networks.

As a leading manufacturer of small/medium earth station equipment, Scientific-Atlanta provides the natural complementary technology to the acknowledged expertise of Plessey in private and public telecommunication switching.

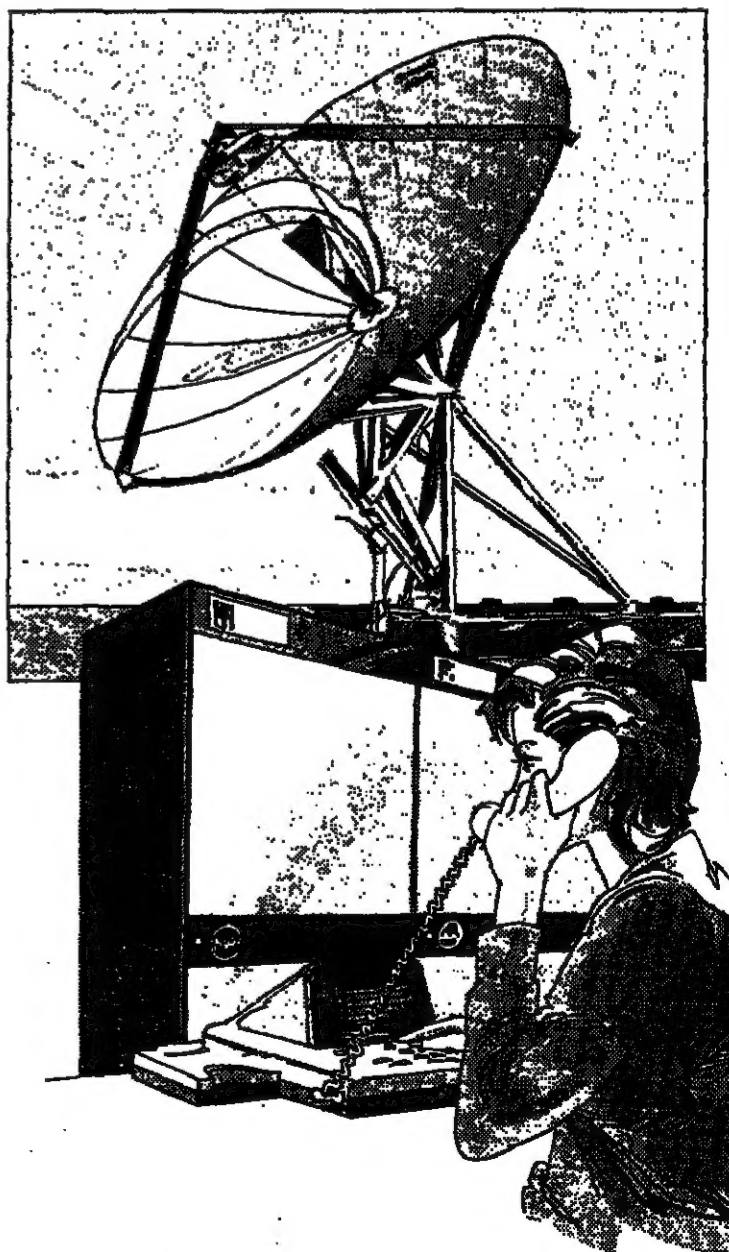
In 1982 Scientific-Atlanta's sales reached 337 million dollars, an increase of 22 per cent over the previous year, and 60 per cent of this came from its telecommunication activities.

Apart from its major market share of commercial earth station installations in the US, Scientific-Atlanta also offers a product portfolio which includes satellite communication equipment; private and public broadcast networks, and much more.

The company is actively involved with new products, such as a new series of small earth stations for mini-cable systems to meet the growing demand by apartment complexes, hotels, hospitals and businesses.

Satellite telecommunications and wide band networks are emerging markets that are of vital strategic importance to the future growth of Plessey.

Plessey Scientific Atlanta will be uniquely placed to take full advantage of these opportunities. The Plessey Company plc, Vicarage Lane, Ilford, Essex IG1 4AQ.



PLESSEY



Escape trophy for Falklands pilot

Squadron Leader Bob Iveson with the RAF Escaping Society's annual trophy which was presented to him at RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire, yesterday. An RAF Harrier pilot, he spent 60 hours behind enemy lines after he was shot down during the Falklands conflict.

He was attacking Argentine positions at Goose Green when heavy anti-aircraft fire hit his aircraft. A few seconds before his plane exploded in the air, he ejected. For the next two-and-a-half days he lived rough until he was rescued by helicopter.

A deserted shepherd's cottage provided food and bedding, but he stayed in the open because he believed that made capture less likely.

Squadron Leader Iveson, who injured his back and was cut and bruised when he was shot down, was mentioned in despatches for his part in the conflict.

Yesterday's presentation, which was made in a hangar at RAF Wittering, was watched by several members of the society, which was founded after the Second World War by men who had evaded capture.

Presenting the trophy, Mr Sidney Holroyd, the chairman of the Escaping Society, said: "This is one of the incidents that exemplify the present-day professionalism of the RAF."

RAF Wittering is also to receive the Freedom of the City of Peterborough, a special meeting of councillors decided by a majority vote.

Parkhurst hostage tells of the threats and jokes during his ordeal

From Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter, Sandown, Isle of Wight

The Parkhurst prisoners who held an assistant governor at knifepoint in his office even took a radio with them to monitor outside reaction. Mr Gerald Schofield, their victim, disclosed yesterday.

Mr Schofield, who was freed after 28 hours of negotiations involving a barrister and a journalist on Wednesday, described his treatment by the prisoners and also defended the prison practice which had made the siege possible. He was held hostage by John Bowden, aged 26, who is serving a life sentence of at least 25 years after mutilating and killing a London man in 1980, and James McCaughey, aged 22, who is serving four years for robbery.

Yesterday, Mr Schofield, speaking at his cottage in Sandown surrounded by his family, said before the siege began that he knew of Bowden and his case but had not met him.

Mr Schofield said: "Despite what he might have done, and what he might be capable of, he is highly intelligent, articulate, and quick thinking." The assistant governor said: "I believe that what happened to me happened as a result of Bowden's frustration because he

was not able to get certain things done, or thought he could not get them done."

Mr Schofield, aged 43, had recently returned to Parkhurst after a secondment in London. Yesterday he still looked tired after his ordeal but agreed to talk to the press on the advice of his wife and doctor who felt it would be better for him if he told his story.

Describing how the siege began, Mr Schofield said the two prisoners came fully prepared when they took over his ground floor room in Parkhurst's C wing. The men were prepared to feed him, and brought in the radio. Bowden, he said, had a very good grasp of what was likely to be going on outside.

At first Mr Schofield was bound hand and foot, and open threats were made against him, but he said he realized his captors knew that as soon as they harmed him "it was over for them".

Gradually, the atmosphere inside the office softened. He said: "They kept a sense of humour," but despite this "I wished I had been a million miles away".

On their radio, the prisoners

heard reports that Bowden wanted to see his former wife. But Bowden denied this to his fellow prisoner and Mr Schofield. He spent part of the night describing to his fellow prisoner and Mr Schofield the details of his failed marriage and how much he disliked his former wife.

No one slept in the 15 by 15ft office on Tuesday night, but as the hours passed, Mr Schofield grew optimistic that there would be a settlement. He said: "After a time, we were talking and sharing confidences and common objectives".

Questions are now being raised about prison policy at one of Britain's maximum security prisons. One of the prisoners used a Stanley knife issued in the prison workshop.

Yesterday, Mr Schofield, said he agreed to any change in the policy of open access which allowed prisoners to see officials like himself without prison officers on guard against trouble.

Mr Schofield, who is taking a few days off work, said he intended to spend time with his wife and small son before returning to Parkhurst. He praised the work of people outside the besieged office to free him.

Action after arson in high-rise blocks

By Alan Hamilton

Waltham Forest Council in north-east London is taking steps to improve safety and amenities on its big Chingford Hill housing estate after a spate of house fires, some of them started deliberately by disgruntled tenants.

Last week a pregnant woman was severely injured when she jumped to the ground from her blazing sixth-floor flat. This week a mother aged 38 was put on two years' probation at the central Criminal Court after admitting setting fire to her twelfth floor flat, which she had occupied for only two days, because she found life on the estate "intolerable".

A former tenant of the same block is serving a nine-month jail sentence for setting fire to his ground-floor flat.

St Francis Tower, one of the estate's three 21-storey high-rise blocks, has had four fires in two years. In a low-rise block near by, a recent fire spread to seven adjoining flats, and all the families had to be rehoused.

Council officials admit that the estate, completed in 1964, no longer meets modern fire safety standards. Work is in hand to improve the safety of the service ducting which carries pipes and cables the height of the blocks and is an easy route for the spread of fire.

Mr Wally Hansen, chairman of Waltham Forest housing committee, has plans to provide each estate in the borough with a resident estate manager.

But many residents of Chingford Hill are anxious to defend their estate and to insist that its quota of vandals and undesirables is lower than the average for an estate with a population of 4,500.

Mr Pat Clark, chairman of an active tenants' association, tries to ensure that new tenants are the relatives of friends of existing residents. "We are trying to stop the very high turnover and bring some stability. The people on the estate have improved 100 per cent."

Mr Shirley Greenstreet discovered smoke in the corridor of her twenty-first storey flat when the twelfth storey apartment was set off fire. "When you have lived in high rise for a while, you get to sense immediately when there is a fire in the block, and how big it is. There is a change on the atmosphere. But I had no fears of it spreading up here, or of being trapped."

Mr Greenstreet enjoys a life on the 21st floor. The lifts usually work, and the block is relatively free of dirt and graffiti. "I asked to move into a lower block for peace and quiet and safety. Who wants to live in a house and get burgled?"

He listed three topics which he said had suffered from non-existent funding until 1977, and had inadequate support now.

They were the saving of energy wasted in industry, commerce and homes; the use of district heating schemes; and the introduction of renewable energy sources.

A parliamentary answer about energy spending given two months ago illustrates the discrepancy. Over the past five years the Government spent £785m on research and development in nuclear power. Only £46m was spent on all forms of renewable energy from the wind, waves, geothermal solar plants and tidal sources.

By coincidence the findings of a three-year study published today provides the detail that a recitation of those bare statistics does not. It suggests the benefits that would flow from changing the pattern of energy spending.

Energy Efficient Futures - Opening the Solar Option Earth Resources Research, 238, Pennonville Road, London N11 2BB.

Concluded

Engineers bridge load gap with 'superglue'

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

Engineers in South Yorkshire have used "superglue" to reinforce a motorway bridge so that it may take a load three times the tolerated weight.

A steel casting weighing 333 tonnes is due to be taken over the M1 bridge at Brinsworth Road, near Rotherham, next Sunday. Originally the bridge would take only 110 tonnes.

After the decision to use "superglue" was taken, workmen with huge tubs of glue set to work 12 weeks ago. It has taken them since then to glue reinforcing steel plates under the bridge.

On Sunday the slow-moving lorry carrying the 15 metre-long casting from Doncaster will cross the bridge on its 35-mile route to the Davy-McKee rolling mills in Sheffield. The casting and lorry, with a combined weight of nearly 500 tonnes, set out on the journey yesterday after the German-made casting was unloaded from a barge in Doncaster.

After additional work by the Sheffield firm it will be transported back to the east coast and shipped to Mexico, where it will be used in a steel mill.



Woman joins Reagan Cabinet

President Reagan with Mrs Elizabeth Dole, whose appointment as Secretary of Transportation he announced yesterday. The appointment of Mrs Dole, a White House aide who replaces Mr Drew Lewis, has to be confirmed by the Senate.

Mrs Dole, wife of Senator Robert Dole, a Republican from Kansas, is at present Special Assistant to the President for public liaison. Mr Lewis resigned to go into private business.

Mr Reagan told a press conference that Mrs Faith Whittlesey, United States Ambassador to Switzerland, would take over Mrs Dole's White House post. He did not say who would replace Mrs Whittlesey.

Mrs Dole will be the first woman Cabinet Secretary named by Mr Reagan, though Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, American representative at the United Nations, has Cabinet rank.

Three quit Coloured party in reform row

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Three leading members of South Africa's Coloured Labour Party have resigned over the decision at its annual congress to participate in moves by Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, to share with the Coloured and Indian groups in the country a limited form of legislative power.

The decision by the Labour Party, the most politically representative of South Africa's 2.7 million Coloureds - a mainly African-speaking section of the community - was taken by an overwhelming vote at the party's congress. It has shattered the emergent Black Alliance of blacks, Coloureds and Indians.

Basically, the proposals imply that an executive president, who will be elected by a white majority, will wield power over all aspects of Government. A system of committees, as opposed to the present Westminster-style system of Government and Opposition in the all-white Parliament, will act as the legislature but the president will hold the right of veto.

South Africa's 18 million blacks, the vast majority of the population of 25 million, will have no say at all. The Government's view is that their political requirements are catered for in separate homelands for Bantustans.

Mr Norman Middleton, a founder-member of the Labour Party and its leader in the Natal province, announced his immediate resignation from the party and said: "The only person who is rejecting is Mr Chris Heunis." Mr Heunis, Minister of the newly created

portfolio of Constitutional Development, has emerged as Mr Botha's right-hand man in selling the constitutional plan.

Others who announced their resignations were Mr Sam Solomon, the Labour Party's Transvaal provincial leader, and Mr Louise Boesak of the Cape province.

Last night the formation of a new Coloured party was announced in Kimberley, in the northern Cape province.

Mr Joe Pinecrown, a member of the town's Coloured management committee, said the new People's Congress Party recognized that Mr Botha was committed to change.

Mr Botha yesterday applauded the Coloured Labour Party for its "constructive policy".

In a rare comment on South Africa's internal policies, the British Embassy in Pretoria said the Labour Party's decision showed "that peaceful evolutionary change was taking place in South Africa."

Black political groups have condemned the Labour Party's decision as a sell-out (Reuter reports).

A leading article in *Sowetan*, the daily newspaper serving Soweto, the black satellite city outside Johannesburg, called yesterday for the Labour Party to be expelled from the Black Alliance because it had "thrown in the towel" and sold out to the Government.

The Azanian People's Organization (Azapo), a militant Black Consciousness group, said the Labour Party had stabbed the liberation cause in the back by joining what it called the ruling National Party's racist conspiracy.

Kenya's law chief is dismissed

From Our Correspondent Nairobi

President Daniel arap Moi yesterday dismissed Mr Joseph Kamere, the Kenyan Attorney-General, and appointed a High Court judge, Mr Matthew Muli, to replace him.

No reason was given in the brief official announcement, but Mr Kamere, aged 56, who was appointed in June 1981, had been under criticism in Parliament when it was revealed that he had obtained a substantial unsecured loan from a local bank, where he did not even have an account.

He was recently involved in a legal action brought by a German businessman who had entered into a partnership with Mr Kamere in a construction project and was later charged with a customs offence.

Pipeline to Zimbabwe sabotaged again

From Stephen Taylor Harare

Mozambican rebels have again sabotaged the oil pipeline to Zimbabwe which has brought the country almost to a halt.

About two yards of the 175-mile pipeline, which runs from the port of Beira through Mozambique to east Zimbabwe, was blown away by explosives on Wednesday night, reliable sources said.

Meanwhile, a senior Government spokesman denied reports that Zimbabwe had negotiated a three-year fuel contract with South Africa and indicated that there were serious obstacles to such a deal.

The sabotage attack was about 80 miles from Beira and less than 12 miles from the Mafinga pumping station, where Zimbabwe troops have been billeted to help to protect the pipeline from the Mozambique Resistance Movement (MNR).

A spokesman for Lonrho, which owns the pipeline, refused to give details, but it is understood that there are contingency measures for such sabotage operations, which are quite frequent, and the damage can be repaired by the weekend.

Queues of cars up to a mile long form days before petrol goes on sale. Otherwise there are few cars on the roads. Most people have formed fuel clubs or walk to work. Millions of working hours are being lost through queuing.

The Mozambicans claim that the depot was sabotaged not by the MNR but by South African commandos who slipped ashore.

Whether true or not, informed observers believe it is significant that the attack came only weeks after Zimbabwe finally gave in to appeals by President Samora Machel of Mozambique for military assistance and sent in up to 1,200 troops. Although they were under orders to only assist in protecting the pipeline, there were attendant risks that the conflict with the Pretoria-backed MNR would spread.

South Africa, which has a surplus of domestically produced fuel, as well as a strong incentive to keep its black neighbours dependent, has indicated it is willing to meet Zimbabwe's needs and there have been a spate of rumours that a deal was imminent.

However, a Government spokesman said yesterday that Pretoria was insisting that negotiations must be at ministerial level which Zimbabwe cannot accept.

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GLC proposes police shake-up

By Tony Hamstead

The Greater London Council yesterday outlined proposals to take control of the Metropolitan Police from the Home Office and create instead a separate, locally controlled police authority for London.

In a 65-page discussion paper intended to form the basis of legislation by a future Labour government, Mr Martin Ennals, head of the GLC's police committee support unit, writes: "The idea of 'policing by consent' had come under increasing strain over the past decade and we have a situation where in many areas of London people have withdrawn their cooperation from police activity."

Among other things, the report criticizes the Metropolitan Police in terms of accountability and efficiency. "London is the only area in Britain which does not have its own elected police authority. Although Londoners contribute nearly a third of a billion pounds to the cost of the Met, they have no part in how the money is spent or any voice through their elected representatives on policing matters."

Mr Ennals notes that fewer than 3,500 police officers "are likely to be available at any one time to patrol London's streets", although police and civilian staff total nearly 39,000.

"In terms of cost effectiveness", moreover, the Met is "noticeably less efficient than other metropolitan forces and vastly more expensive. Thirty per cent of all Home Office police funding in the whole country goes to the Met. In 1982-83 London ratepayers will contribute £323m to a total budget of £727m."

Above all, "the clear-up rate for reported crime in London is the lowest in the country. Since 1977 it has fallen from 21 per cent to 17 per cent of reported crime."

The London police authority would comprise the GLC police committee and 32 borough police committees, most of which would have to be newly created. National policing functions such as those of the Special Branch and protection of the Royal Family would be hived off from the Metropolitan police to a national police

agency which would be controlled by a national police authority composed of representatives from local police authorities.

London-wide matters such as drugs, fraud and regional crime investigations would be handled by a separate regional crime squad; the City of London police would be absorbed into the Metropolitan police, although the Corporation of the City of London would be represented on the new police authority.

The report also considers the implications of making police officers local government employees. Such status, it considers, "would provide an organizational link between police and public which would furnish both democratic control and professional flexibility."

The GLC police committee is to consider the report next Tuesday. It will then be presented to the full council "for adoption for consultation purposes" on January 25.

Neither Scotland Yard nor the Home Office had any comments on the proposals yesterday.

The Sizewell inquiry: 3

Nuclear power alternative overlooked

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

No other industry has been as wracked by political intervention as that which has dominated the short life of nuclear power development. The nature of that influence will become apparent over coming months as the public inquiry, which begins next week, into plans to build in Britain the controversial American type of pressurized water reactor (PWR) power station unfolds.

The proposal by the Central Electricity Generating Board is for a PWR of 1,100 megawatts capacity to be built at Sizewell on the Suffolk coast. It could be the first of 10 which the Government announced its intention four years ago of building at the rate of one a year from 1982.

The timetable has slipped, but perhaps even more important, the demand for electricity is in steady decline, thus throwing doubt on plans for new capacity.

Nevertheless the board has prepared a strong case based on three main propositions. The first is economic, and it asserts that a PWR will help to control

the costs of fuel which are the biggest factor in electricity price rises.

The board also says a PWR station, over its lifetime, will have lower aggregate costs of construction and operation than any new coal, oil or even the latest type of the British design advanced gas cooled reactor (AGCR) station.

The estimate for the Sizewell PWR is £1,147m compared with £1,590m for an AGCR, which would be the nuclear alternative for Sizewell. The disparity in costs is not quite as high as it appears because the AGCR has 210 megawatts more generating capacity.

The first serious flaw in the economic argument may lie in construction time, which is crucial to the calculations for nuclear power. The capital and interest charges account for most of the cost of a nuclear station over its lifetime, and the board estimates a construction time of 90 months for Sizewell. Yet in the United States the average time to build PWRs is 102 months, a longer period still is needed for an AGCR.

Nevertheless the argument is that a PWR would produce important and rapid operational savings for the board because older stations would be run less and therefore costly fossil fuels would be saved.

More than 80 per cent of electricity now comes from coal-fired stations. The next board proposition is that although renewable energy sources have substantial potential in the long term their development and costs are too uncertain to be regarded as an alternative to nuclear power.

That argument is probably the most contentious one in the board's case, for it rejects the idea that there are more effective energy developments in which to invest nearly £1,200m which a PWR would cost.

The opposition view was voiced recently by Sir Martin Ryle, Astronomer Royal, in *Electronics and Power*. He said: "The obsession with nuclear-based electricity as the main source of future energy supply has led to inadequate development of alternative pro-

grammes". He listed three topics which he said had suffered from non-existent funding until 1977, and had inadequate support now.

They were the saving of energy wasted in industry, commerce and homes; the use of district heating schemes; and the introduction of renewable energy sources.

A parliamentary answer about energy spending given two months ago illustrates the discrepancy. Over the past five years the Government spent £785m on research and development in nuclear power. Only £46m was spent on all forms of renewable energy from the wind, waves, geothermal solar plants and tidal sources.

By coincidence the findings of a three-year study published today provides the detail that a recitation of those bare statistics does not. It suggests the benefits that would flow from changing the pattern of energy spending.

Energy Efficient Futures - Opening the Solar Option Earth Resources Research, 238, Pennonville Road, London N11 2BB.

Concluded

Odinga's son remanded on treason charges

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Mr Raila Odinga, the son of Mr Oginga Odinga, the former Kenyan Vice-President, appeared in court here yesterday and was remanded in custody to await trial in the High Court on charges of treason which carry the death penalty.

Two other members of the Luo tribe appeared with him. Mr Otieno Makonyang, assistant managing editor of *The Sunday Standard* newspaper, was also charged with treason.

Professor Alfred Vincent Otieno, dean of the engineering faculty at Nairobi University, was charged with misprision of treason - having knowledge of the alleged plot to overthrow the Government and failing to inform the authorities.

Mr Odinga is alleged to have lent a car to the self-confessed coup leader, Air Force Private Hezekiah Ocheukha (who escaped to Tanzania and has been granted political asylum there) and to have discussed the coup plot with him and others before the revolt of August 1.



Patience brings European unity of a kind

Britain's accession to the EEC aroused hopes of a new era in European integration. In this final article of a five-part series by staff writers of *The Times* to mark the tenth anniversary of British membership, IAN MURRAY, Brussels Correspondent, traces the Community's progress towards this elusive goal.



In Strasbourg last month, as Euro-MPs were preparing to vote down Britain's EEC budget rebate, officials were busy distributing a press release about "the impact of British membership" on the European Parliament.

"Largely inspired, particularly at the beginning, by the House of Commons experience of the British members," it said, "the Budgets Committee and the Political Committee together made imaginative proposals to bring Community spending more closely under parliamentary scrutiny."

When the budget rebate was lost, therefore, it was a classic case of Britain having been hoist with its own petard. The Parliament, flexing muscles it did not know it possessed until Britain joined, showed impressive unity in voting against short-term British interest and in favour of what it believed were the long-term needs of Europe.

This kind of unity has proved only too hard to find in an enlarged Community, which had such high hopes, when Britain joined, of attaining European unity within the decade.

At the first nine-country EEC summit in Paris in October, 1972, the leaders confidently declared: "The member states of the Community, the driving force of European construction, affirm their intention to transform before the end of the present decade the whole complex of their relations into a European union."

Just a fortnight short of a year later, the Yom Kippur war erupted, and among its many victims was European economic and monetary union, which was to have been the solid foundation for the less tangible concept of European union itself.

That first oil shock and the industrialized world's consequent recession swept away the dream of economic survival, if need be, at the expense of fellow members of the EEC.

Yet the Community still very much exists - especially in the eyes of the outside world. The United States turned down the opportunity to bargain separately,

with Britain over steel import quotas and instead insisted on dealing with the Community.

The Soviet Union now makes ritual denunciations of the Community as a whole, even though it does seek to exploit internal EEC differences to its own advantage.

Developing countries increasingly look to the Community rather than to their old colonial rulers for help.

Moreover, Britain is by now so inextricably bound up inside the Community that it is almost inconceivable that any government in London would actually succeed in finding the time or the political ability to negotiate its way out. In this sense European unity has been achieved almost despite the efforts of its constituent members.

There has been some progress on the grand design of the 1972 summit. There is no economic and monetary union, but there is a European monetary system (EMS) with its own currency, the *ecu* (European Currency Unit) which some banks will now accept on deposit. Britain has so far refused to join fully in the system.

There is no real industrial, scientific and technological policy, but piecemeal there are decisions and proposals which could form the basis of one. Notably, there is a growing agreement that cooperation in high technology is essential to meet the world's challenges.

While there is no agreed energy policy, there is now full

awareness that the Community must strive for a much higher level of self-sufficiency in this area. The first informal meeting towards establishing a common coal policy - which would greatly benefit Britain - took place last month.

In external relations there has been enormous progress. Political cooperation is the one obvious growth area of the Community. Britain benefited through this from Community support during the Falklands crisis in a way which would have been inconceivable 10 years ago.

Negotiations are always bound to be tough and long in Brussels because the task of moulding 10 separate and sometimes conflicting national interests is never easy. But nothing is less positive than a deadline imposed in Brussels, and negotiations in the end usually succeed in reaching a compromise for Europe's advancement.

When it joined the so-called "rich man's club", Britain was obviously looking for quick results, and the slowness of it all made Britons irritable. Now they are becoming more reconciled and more attuned to the pace of the community.

As Sir Geoffrey Howe said stoically last month after Parliament had rejected the 1982 budget rebate: "Patience is one of the commodities which the Community generates in quite large quantities."

Concluded

Third World doubts, page 10

ENJOY A MONTHLY INCOME FROM NATIONAL SAVINGS— WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR CAPITAL.

Suppose you have £5,000 or more to invest. You want to keep your capital intact. At the same time, you could do with something extra – to spend, top up your earnings or pension.

This is exactly what National Savings Income Bonds are for. They give you a regular income every month, without drawing on your capital.

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Currently, the interest rate is 11½% p.a., earned on a day to day basis. It will vary from time to time, to keep it competitive. Here is the monthly income you can get today at various levels of investment.

Investment	Average Monthly Income
£5,000	£47.91
£25,000	£239.58
£60,000	£575.00

(Each additional £1,000 invested produces £9.58 a month – £115 a year).

You can have the income paid directly into your bank account, or sent to you by post.

Up to £200,000

You can buy Income Bonds in multiples of £1,000. The minimum holding is £5,000 and the maximum £200,000.

Income Bonds can be a valuable source of income to trusts, registered companies, charities, friendly societies, clubs, &c.



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It's like pulling up a rosebush
just to have a few flowers indoors!



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Interest is taxable, but tax is not deducted at source.

This is beneficial to organisations and individuals who do not have to pay tax – including children whose money is held in trust.

Repayment

You will receive the full rate of interest up to the date of repayment, if you give six months' notice and the Bonds have been held for a year or more at the time repayment is made.

For details of the terms for cashing in at three months' notice, and for cashing in during the first year, see paragraph 6 of the prospectus which is published in full below.

Buy Bonds here and now

Fill in the coupon and send it with your cheque (payable to 'National Savings,' crossed 'A/C Payee') to NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, Lancs, FY3 9YP.

Or you can get the prospectus/application form, plus pre-paid addressed envelope, at your post office.

PROSPECTUS

1 The Director of Savings is authorised by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to receive until further notice applications for National Savings Income Bonds ('Bonds').

2 The Bonds are a Government security, issued under the National Loans Act 1968. They are registered in the National Savings Stock Register and are subject to the Regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force, so far as these are applicable. The principal of and interest on the Bonds will be a charge on the National Loans Fund.

3 **PURCHASE**
3.1 Subject to a minimum initial purchase of £5,000 (see paragraph 4.1) a Bond may be purchased for £1,000 or a multiple of that sum. Payment in full must be made at the time of application. The date of purchase will for all purposes be the date of receipt of the money, with a completed application form, at the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, or such other place as the Director of Savings may specify.

3.2 An investment certificate, bearing the date of purchase, will be issued in respect of each purchase.

4 **HOLDING LIMITS**
4.1 No person may hold, either solely or jointly with any other person, less than £5,000 or more than £200,000 of Bonds. Bonds inherited from a deceased holder will not count towards this permitted maximum. Furthermore, Bonds held by a person as trustee will not count towards the maximum which he is permitted to hold in his personal capacity; nor will Bonds held in trust count towards the permitted maximum of a beneficiary's personal holding.

4.2 The Treasury may vary the maximum and minimum holding limits from time to time, upon giving notice. No such variation will prejudice any right under the prospectus enjoyed by a Bondholder immediately before the variation in respect of a Bond then held by him.

5 **INTEREST**
5.1 Interest will be calculated on a day to day basis from the date of purchase at a rate determined by the Treasury ('the Treasury rate').

5.2 Interest will be payable on the 5th day of each month. The Director of Savings may defer payments of accrued interest otherwise due in respect of a Bond within the period of six weeks following the date of purchase until the next interest date following the end of that period.

5.3 If on repayment the Bond has, by reason of paragraph 6.1, earned less interest than the total already paid in respect of the Bond under paragraph 5.2 the balance will be deducted from the sum to be repaid. Any interest earned on the Bond and not already paid before repayment will be added to the sum to be repaid, if, in the case of repayment under paragraph 6.2, it is not reasonably practicable to add an interest payment from being made after the

5.4 The Treasury may from time to time vary the Treasury rate upon giving six weeks' notice.

5.5 The Treasury may from time to time vary the intervals at and dates on which interest is payable, upon giving notice, and in so doing may specify holding limits above or below which any variation will apply. No variation will apply to a Bond issued before the variation unless the Bondholder agrees to such application.

5.6 Interest on a Bond registered in the sole name of a minor under seven years of age will normally be paid into a National Savings Bank account in the name of the minor.

5.7 Interest on a Bond will be paid without deduction of Income Tax, but it is subject to Income Tax and must be included in any return of income made to the Inland Revenue.

	3 months' notice of repayment	6 months' notice of repayment
Repayment before the first anniversary of purchase	No interest in respect of any period	Interest at half the Treasury rate from the date of purchase to the date of repayment
Repayment on or after the first anniversary of purchase	Interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase to the date of repayment	Interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase to the date of repayment

6.2 Where an application for repayment of a Bond is made after the date of the sale or sale pursuant to registered holder no fixed period of notice is required and the Bond will earn interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the date of repayment, whether or not repayment occurs before the first anniversary of the purchase.

6.3 Any application for repayment of a Bond must be made in writing to the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, and accom-

panied by the investment certificate. The period of notice given by the Bondholder will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the Bonds and Stock Office.

6.4 Application may be made for repayment of part of a Bond in an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum provided that the holding of Bonds remaining after the part repayment will still fall within the minimum holding limit imposed by paragraph 4.1 as varied from time to time under paragraph 4.2. The preceding sub-paragraphs will apply to the part repaid as to a whole Bond; the remaining balance will have the same date of purchase and the same interest rates as were applicable to the original Bond immediately prior to repayment.

PAYMENTS

7 Interest will be payable direct to a National Savings Bank or other bank account or by crossed warrant sent by post. Capital will be repayable direct to a National Savings Bank account or by crossed warrant sent by post.

MINORS

8 A Bond held by a minor under the age of seven years, either solely or jointly with any other person, will not be repayable, except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

TRANSFER

9 Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. Transfer of a Bond or part of a Bond will only be allowed in an amount of £1,000 or multiple of that sum and will not be allowed if the holding of the transferor or transferee would thereby be outside the holding limits imposed by paragraph 4.1 as varied from time to time under paragraph 4.2. The Director of Savings will normally give consent in the case of, for example, devolution of Bonds on the death of a holder but not to any proposed transfer which is by way of sale or for any consideration.

NOTICE

10 The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 4.2, 5.4, 5.5 or 11 of the prospectus in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in any other manner which they think fit. If notice is given otherwise than in the Gazettes it will be as soon as is reasonably possible thereafter be recorded in them.

GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS

11 Each Bond may be held for a guaranteed initial period of 10 years from the first interest date after the date of purchase. Thereafter interest will continue to be payable under the terms of the prospectus until the redemption of the Bond. The Bond will be redeemed at par either at the end of the guaranteed initial period or on any interest date thereafter, in either case upon the giving of six months' notice by the Treasury. The Director of Savings will write to the Bondholder before redemption, at the last recorded address for his Bondholding, informing him of the date of redemption notified by the Treasury.

APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL SAVINGS INCOME BOND

To the Controller, NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, Lancs FY3 9YP.

1 I/We accept the terms of the Prospectus and apply for a Bond to the value of: £ ,000 Initial minimum of £5,000 and multiples of £1,000 to a maximum of £200,000

2 Surname(s) Full Christian name(s) or forename(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address
(including postcode)

Name of Trust (if applicable) Date of Birth (if under 7) Day Month Year

3 NAME AND ADDRESS FOR DESPATCH OF INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE (if different from above)
Name
Address

4 DIVIDENDS TO BE PAID BY CREDIT TO:- (If not to a National Savings Bank, or other bank account, enter name and address to which dividend warrants should be sent)
Bank
Address
A/c Name(s) A/c No

5 Signature(s) Date

مسكذ من لاصل

US tries to end impasse in Lebanese peace talks

From Christopher Walker, Kiryat Shmona

Seven months to the day since Israeli armoured columns first rumbled through this bleak border town to invade Lebanon, the Israeli, Lebanese and American negotiators meeting here moved closer to breaking the frustrating deadlock which has so far prevented agreement on an agenda to allow talks to begin on their eventual withdrawal.

In an atmosphere of mounting tension between Israel and Syria resulting from Syria's construction of new long-range missile bases, the American negotiating team yesterday presented new ideas designed to bridge the gap which has blocked progress in any of the three previous negotiating rounds.

Information on the content of the American suggestions was kept secret, but conference sources hinted that there were new hopes that they would be sufficient to allow the Israeli and Lebanese sides to agree after consultation with their home governments. A final decision is expected when the talks resume at their twin locations next week.

Yesterday's complex diplomatic exercise was designed to bridge the fundamental disagreement about whether or not the talks should involve discussion of future normal relations between Israel and Lebanon.

It is understood that Mr David Kimche, Israel's chief negotiator and director-general

of the Foreign Ministry, insisted that some discussion of future ties would have to be included if talks on pulling out Israeli forces from Lebanon were to proceed. He was acting on instructions from the Cabinet.

The new American formula emerged during a day of intense discussions in a community centre here which still bears the scars of a Palestinian rocket which scored a direct hit in July 1981.

They followed a growing mood of frustration among all sides at the embarrassing lack of progress to date. Intensive Israeli security was operating in southern Lebanon following the discovery last week of rocket launchers aimed at the town.

Official sources told me that preliminary telephone discussions with Jerusalem and Beirut took place on the basis of the American plan. An American official said that he hoped that it would meet "everybody's language and substance".

There was no immediate hint of whether Israel or Lebanon had softened their earlier hard-line positions. But there were indications that negotiations on subjects such as future trade, tourism and communication links might eventually get under way. The end result will certainly be far less than the full peace treaty which Israel had once been aspiring to.

The anxiety of the Lebanese throughout the fraught 20 hours of talks to date has been to

avoid appearing in the eyes of the Arab world to be permitting Israel to secure a degree of "normalization" as a prize for its invasion on June 6 last year.

Although preliminary talks on the American plan took place after yesterday's lunch break, they were not completed. Israel's answer is likely to be decided at the next full Cabinet meeting which is scheduled for Sunday.

From the outset of the talks, which opened last week in a seedy seafaring hotel in the Lebanese town of Khaled, substantive progress has been completely blocked by the sometimes angry wrangle over the agenda wording. The dispute has been seen as evidence of the protracted nature of the talks will take when they eventually begin in earnest.

Among ideas which had already been rejected before yesterday's complicated new formula was put forward by Mr Morris Draper, America's chief delegate, were plans for a formal agenda to be bypassed altogether and for the obstacle to be overcome by an exchange of private letters between Israel and Lebanon.

In diplomatic circles last night there was speculation that a way through the semantic maze which has bedevilled the negotiations would involve both a new wording and a new approach to the way in which cross-border ties between Israel and Lebanon could be included.



'Now we have him on a short leash!'

'Death attracted nursing home man'

Oslo (AP) - Mr Arnfinn Nesset, who is charged with the murder of 25 elderly patients in the nursing home where he was superintendent, was described as "an effeminate, servile and smirking person without scruples, strongly attracted by death", when his trial resumed in Trondheim yesterday.

Dr Kari Noer, who worked at the home in Orkdal, told the court that Mr Nesset, who is 45, "liked to play doctor" although he had no medical qualifications, and often said one thing to his superiors and then did the exact opposite.

She said that she once caught Mr Nesset about to give an elderly patient an illegal morphine injection. She had immediately issued a written instruction allowing only doctors to give injections in the presence of two nurses as witnesses.

Mr Nesset, who has denied the charges, was arrested in March, 1981, following police investigations since November, 1980, when a nurse reported that she found needle marks in the arm of a patient who had died suddenly, shortly after Mr Nesset had visited his room.

In police hearings while in prison Mr Nesset confessed that he had killed about 30 elderly male and female patients with injections of the deadly poison curacil. The prosecution decided to charge him with 25 of these killings. When the trial began on October 18 he withdrew his confessions and claimed he was innocent.

More than 150 witnesses were called to the trial and 60 of them are still to be heard. At first Judge Karl Solberg hoped to complete the case before Christmas. Now he says it is expected to go on until Easter.

Creditor to scrutinize De Lorean records

From Christopher Thomas, New York

An independent examiner has been appointed by a federal bankruptcy judge in Detroit to determine whether an irregularity in the financial records of the now defunct De Lorean Motor Co "was anything sinister or merely if it was simply stupidity".

The ruling came after Mr Harlod Ninkus, a partner in Touche Ross and Co, a creditor, testified that a brief examination showed the De Lorean company's financial affairs had been conducted through the personal bank account of its founder, Mr John De Lorean, since February, 1982.

Judge George Woods appointed Touche Ross and Co as the examiner at the request of the De Lorean creditors' committee. Mr Lawrence Snider, lawyer acting for De Lorean Motor Co, argued that appointing a creditor to examine the records would be a waste of money when an accountant for the creditors could do the same thing.

Judge Woods, however, ruled that creditors could make such a request when there was reason to suspect fraud, dishonesty, misconduct, mismanagement or irregularities.

The car company went to court on October 25 seeking protection from creditors, shortly after Mr De Lorean was arrested in Los Angeles for alleged drug offences.

Alarm over Soviet satellite rejected

Moscow (Reuters) - A senior Soviet space official yesterday denied American reports that a Soviet satellite was out of control and likely to crash later this month.

Dr Vladimir Kotelnikov, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, told a press conference in Moscow that the Cosmos 1402 satellite was working normally and was safe. "We are at present carrying out scheduled operations with it," he said adding: "We do not have any worries about the fate of this satellite."

The United States Defence Department said on Wednesday that Cosmos 1402, which carries a nuclear power pack, had dropped out of orbit and was expected to crash to Earth at the end of the month.

United States officials described Cosmos 1402 as a spy satellite used to observe shipping movements.

UFO Reports: The weekly publication, *Sovetskaya Kultura*, said yesterday that the existence of unidentified flying objects should not be ruled out and disclosed that a Soviet fighter aircraft had a brush with a mystery object two years ago. The aircraft encountered a "fiery ball" 16 ft in diameter, which travelled in front of it for some distance "as if measuring its speed" and then passed through the aircraft, exploding as it reached the tail and causing structural damage.

Longer Rights page 8

Tripoli ceasefire moves boycotted

Tripoli, Lebanon (Reuters) - Thick smoke poured out from the heart of Tripoli as pro-Syrian and anti-Syrian forces battled on for the seventh successive day.

Tenage militiamen staked out blocks of flats in the main battle zone, a run-down slum area on the edge of the sprawling city, and sporadic bursts of automatic fire echoed down the deserted streets.

Correspondents who visited the front line at midday chanced on a relative lull in the battles which have killed about 60 people since Friday. But later in the afternoon Beirut radio said that fierce fighting erupted again with artillery and heavy machine gun fire.

Efforts to arrange a ceasefire appeared to be making little progress with several anti-Syrian groups boycotting key talks.

Fighting in Tripoli between supporters and opponents of Syria dates back to 1976, when the Syrian Army intervened in the civil war in Lebanon.

The Syrian troops who tried to take control of Tripoli faced resistance from several of the armed groups that rule the city. To strengthen their position, the Syrians encouraged the emergence of a local militia, the Arab Democratic Party, which drew much of its support from immigrants of Syrian origin.

In early December a shopkeeper of Syrian origin was shot dead by unknown gunmen. Since then, the anti-Syrian forces have managed to encircle the ADP militia and some

Syrian troops in one slum district.

Mr Nasib al-Khatib, the ADP secretary-general, told reporters yesterday that his men were pinned down, "surrounded by bombardments though not by troops". He wanted a ceasefire and local party sources said one of the most important anti-Syrian groups, the Islamic Unification Movement, also wanted to end the fighting.

Both these groups attended a meeting yesterday with Mr Rashid Karami, the former Prime Minister, but sources said that some of other anti-Syrian groups refused to attend.

Mr Farouk Mukaddam, the leader of the 24th October Organisation, one of the groups boycotting the meeting, told reporters he did not think that Mr Karami's plans to keep the peace in Tripoli with a joint force drawn from all the local warring parties would work.

Mr Mukaddam was demanding the complete withdrawal of all Syrian troops from Tripoli and the deployment in the area of the Lebanese National Army.

BEIRUT: the Lebanese Army yesterday sealed off a large part of Beirut's southern suburbs in search of what it called groups planning acts against state security (Reuters reports).

WASHINGTON: President Yitzhak Navon of Israel said here yesterday, the United States should encourage President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon to resist Arab pressures and agree to peaceful coexistence with Israel (Reuters reports).

Pope murder plot man to be extradited

Bonn (Reuters) - West Germany has agreed to extradite Musa Cedar Celebi, a Turk suspected by the Italian authorities of involvement in the attempt to kill the Pope in 1981, a Justice Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

A Frankfurt court agreed last month to an application from Italy for the extradition of Mr Celebi, and 30 pending formal approval by the Government.

The spokesman said the Government had agreed to the request but could not say when Mr Celebi would be sent to Italy as the matter was now in the hands of the regional authorities.

Mr Celebi was arrested on November 1 as he left a house in the town of Krieff where he lived for several years. The Italian authorities suspect he and several other people planned the attack on the Pope at meetings in Zurich and Milan.

Team discusses logistics for British troops

By Our Foreign Staff

A British reconnaissance team flew to Beirut yesterday to discuss with the Lebanese authorities arrangements for deploying a British contingent for the multinational peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

The contingent will consist of 80 men drawn from troops serving in Cyprus, and will stay in Lebanon for three months. The Foreign Office said it would be moved to Lebanon as soon as the necessary logistical arrangements had been made with both the Lebanese and the multinational force authorities.

At present the peacekeeping force consists of 4,300 American, French and Italian soldiers. Britain declined a Lebanese request for a larger number of troops. The Beirut Government had hoped to expand the force to 15,000 men from 12 countries.

into Europe. "I have confidence in the Commission," he said. Meanwhile, France continued to insist that all imports of video recorders, more than 90 per cent of which come from Japan, be routed through the single customs post in the small town of Poitiers. That requirement had reduced imports, which had been coming in at a rate of about 50,000 a month, to a trickle.

The EEC Commission considers the restrictions, which also affect a small number of recorders, to be illegal under EEC rules, and called on France three weeks ago to lift them by January 1 or face action in the European Court.

France so far has taken no steps to comply

Japan unable to bend French over videos

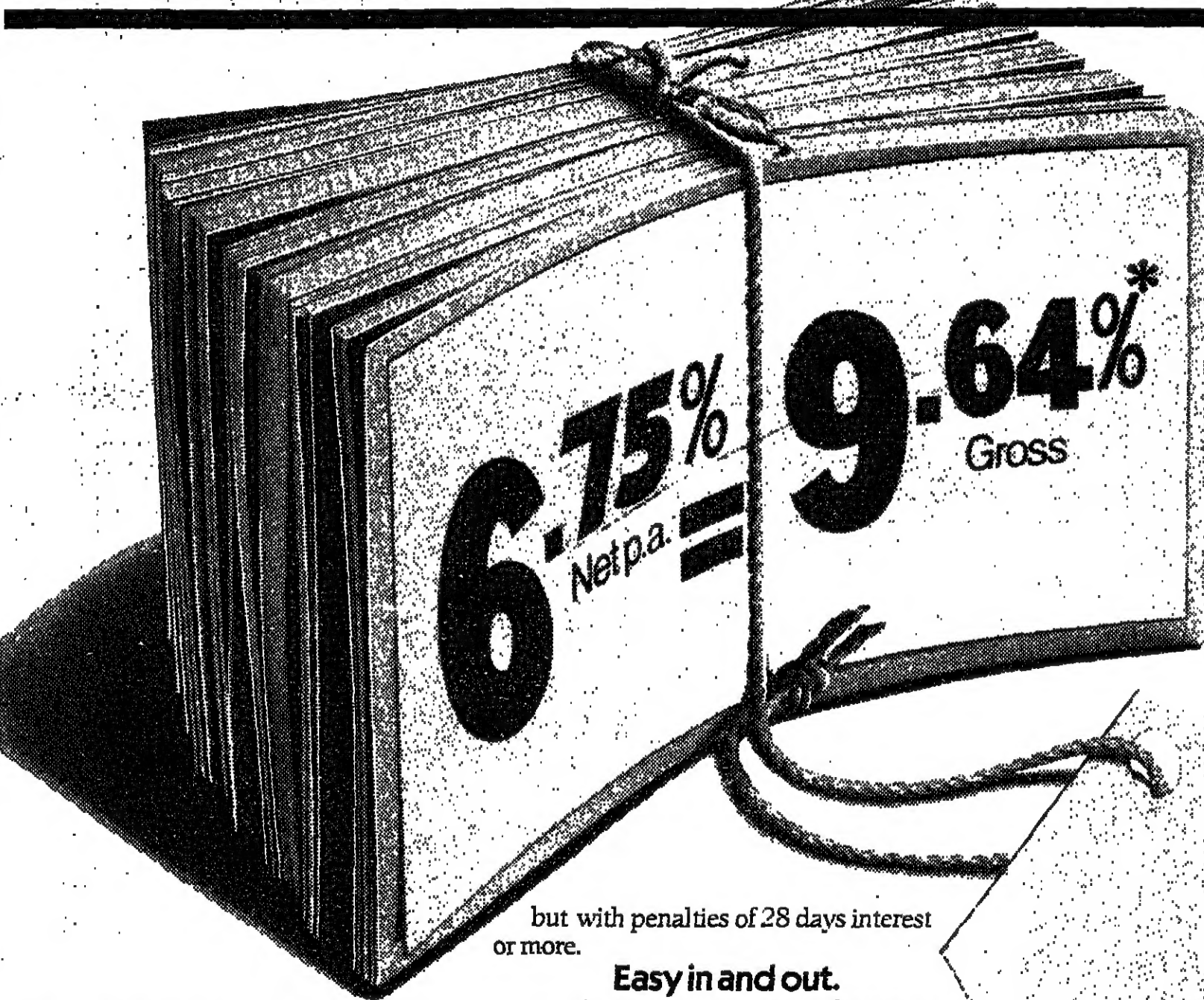
From Diana Geddes, Paris

Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, left Paris for London yesterday after talks with President Mitterrand and French ministers amid expressions of good will on both sides, but with nothing concrete achieved on the vexed question of trade.

Mr Michel Jobert, the Minister for Trade, told Mr Abe that the increase in France's trade deficit with Japan from 7,000m francs (£840m) in 1980 to 12,500m francs in 1982 was "not tolerable in the present economic situation".

However, he has promised that France will not take any further unilateral action against Japan, but will leave it up to the EEC to conduct the necessary negotiations on removing Japanese non-tariff trade barriers and limiting Japanese imports

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The Friday Page ● Dance craze ● Sexual offences ● Heroin addiction

How the quick made a killing out of fitness

When Pineapple, London's largest centre for physical fitness and dance exercises, went public on Guy Fawkes Day last year its shares opened at 52p. During the day they shot up to 96p and yesterday were 155p. This confidence by investors says something about the extraordinary boom in the desire for fitness.

The craze to feel, if not actually to be, in good physical shape, so brilliantly exploited by Jane Fonda in California, has come to Britain. Until a few years ago exercise classes were run mainly in gymnasia catering principally for men. Professional dancers worked out at the Dance Centre in Covent Garden with, alongside classes in ballet and tap, held occasional sessions devoted to a general programme of physical fitness. But these classes, largely attended by lithe and youthful dancers in brilliantly coloured leotards, were daunting to ordinary people wanting to lose a little weight and feel a bit healthier.

Then, at the very end of the 1970s, sparked off like most crazes by a combination of ideas and people coming together at a single and fortuitous moment, the rush was on. Imaginative businessmen visiting America saw how fashionable the mania for exercise had become and returned to London to look for suitable premises. At the same time, young American dancers who happened to be in London were deluged with offers to teach. When Jane Fonda opened her class in aerobics in Los Angeles to such instant success, there were people ready in Britain to follow her.

One of the first groups to get going was Pineapple, started by an ex-model called Debbie Moore who had been doing exercises regularly at the Dance Centre for 10 years. When the Centre unexpectedly closed she found an old pineapple warehouse 100 yards down the road, equipped with six studios, recruited 45 teachers and within three months was so inundated by applications that she had to close her membership list.

Soon after she took over another floor of the same building and a theatre where students could rehearse. But she still did not have the space needed by large dance companies for rehearsals and auditions. Then she came across a disused church hall in Marylebone

with a 3,000 sq ft room. Last March that became Pineapple West. The two centres now take in 12,000 people a week.

Meanwhile the Dance Centre had reopened, after a brief closure, but with a slightly different emphasis, so that today it manages to coexist in harmony with its rival down the road. Some of the dancers have migrated to Pineapple; but their place has been taken by office workers and actors and actresses from the West End theatres.

Strict ballet has given way to California Workout, Eileen's New York Stretch and Funky Disco. In one converted warehouse a shop sells a range of clothes to go with these activities; in another there is The Sanctuary, luxurious spa for women, with swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi and solarium, full of tropical plants and parrots on perches.

The keep-fit business has attracted a number of husbands and wife teams. Denise Lewis is an ex-dancer who was among those who went to America a few years ago, saw what was happening, returned to London and opened a gymnasium and dance studio with her husband Jim, a karate expert, in the old Studio 51 basement off Leicester Square.

She called it, appropriately, The Big Apple. She now runs 64 classes a week, attended by a total of 1,000 students.

In north London, Davide Crawford and his former wife have been running the Abraxas Studios for the last 18 years as a squash club. Recently, though more interested in



Denise Lewis at The Big Apple

woodwork, then went back to New York to find teachers.

The craze is spreading so fast that exercise classes are now held in every conceivable niche, from the basements of hairdressing salons to dancing teachers' denuded sitting rooms.

Every studio of any size has a standard range of classes - body conditioning, yoga, various permutations of dance and gym - to which are added new programmes as a fad arrives from New York or a teacher decides to create a special package of her own and finds a following. The most fashionable is aerobics, an hour of fast continuous movement designed to increase pulse rates and oxygen to the lungs. It's highly prized by those who can do it ("They can barely walk down the stairs when they've finished, so

they think it must be doing them good" commented Nona Summers somewhat wryly), but is the most likely to cause sprained muscles.

As might be expected, a fringe of minor businesses has sprung up, from Heaven, in Hampstead, which provides something called Reflexology, "for taking away deeper tensions", to the sale of vitamins and dance clothes.

The industry has also given birth to a new career for dancers. They brush up their technique, buy a cassette player and devise a programme of exercises, then go out on a circuit of the studios, one place in the morning, another in the afternoon.

Roberta Pye, a 30-year-old American who has been dancing since she was four, came to London in the 1970s, spent a few years making a meagre living, then found herself overwhelmed with work. She now gives classes at the Abraxas, Heaven, the Sobell Centre, a hall in the Royal Free Hospital and privately, to members of the British Theatre Association.

And the clients? Four fifths of those who attend the studios are women, most in their twenties and early thirties. The Dance Centre indicated that no one over 50 was really up to aerobics; Nona Summers added that men rarely lasted the course.

Among the more reflective of those enjoying the boom, however, there is realization that in its present form it cannot last - that they must be alive to whatever new craze America exports next.

Caroline Moorehead

Where the funk fanatics work out

● Pineapple, 7 Langley Street, WC2 (836 4004) and Pineapple West, 60 Paddington Street, London W1 (487 3444). Launched as a company three years ago in an old warehouse in Covent Garden, they have recently gone public. All told they have 17 studios, a gymnasium, a creche, a shop and 25,000 members. Open: Mon-Fri 9.30-9. Part of Saturday and Sunday. Membership obligatory: £18 pa. Classes £2.

● The Dance Centre, 11-12 Floral Street, London, WC2 (836 6544). The first studio of its kind in London when Gary Cockerell came over with *West Side Story* in 1958,

then stayed. After a brief closure it reopened with larger premises, more teachers, including a shop and retail centre and a health club for women. Open: Mon-Fri 9am-10pm; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 12am-6pm. £2 per session and 35p day membership.

● The Big Apple, 10-11 Newport Street, WC2 (240 1701). Started as a gymnasium by a husband and wife team, now offers 64 classes a week, including special programmes designed by the owner, the Denise Lewis Body Conditioning Method, as well as a body stretching class. Open: Mon-Fri 9.30 am-9pm. Sat 9.30 am-4 pm. Classes to non-members £2.50.

● The Abraxas Studios, 81 Belsize Park Gardens, NW3 (722 8220). Started as a squash club in 1928. Now provides five courts, two saunas and four dance studios as well as a restaurant and cafe. Open: Mon-Fri 9am-9.30pm. Sat and Sun mornings. Classes to non-members, £3 (sauna included).

● Nona's Dance Studio, 54 Gledbe Place, London SW3 (352 9455). Opened earlier this year in a former artist's studio. Clients mainly foreign but the centre provides popular classes for children and teenagers. Open: Mon-Fri 8am-9pm. Sat 11am-2pm. Membership £90 pa. Classes to non-members, £6.

Medical Briefing

Getting on to hard drugs

The recent death of the actor Joss Ackland's son from heroin addiction adds to the list of the children of the famous who have suffered from drug addiction. Because such cases are inevitably well-publicized it is easy to assume that the register of drug addicts is composed solely of names

made famous by politics, the stage and other forms of public life.

This is not so. There are probably more than 20,000 addicts in Britain today, three-quarters in London and most of their names would mean nothing to people outside the small communities in which they used to live.

The problem for doctors and social workers is to determine the factors which have created in these people such a strong craving for drugs.

Doctors running one of London's busiest clinics said recently that their patients, far from having a privileged background, were mainly working-class. Few had any recognizable mental illness, but most showed obvious signs of personality disorder.

Though they came from all types of homes a disproportionate number had a disturbed family background. Their addiction often seemed to have started as a result of being

foolhardy enough to begin using less harmful drugs.

This clinic offers programmes of treatment involving progressively decreasing doses of the heroin substitute, methadone.

The animal welfare radicals who claimed to have contaminated Christmas poultry with paracetamol would have had to find old stock if they were to have any chance of implementing their threats.

For the last year paracetamol has contained a bright dye, a foul-smelling additive and an emetic, all of which, say poison experts, would make it difficult to hide the necessary large dose in a single bird.

Paracetamol is a feared poison because there is no effective treatment once it is absorbed in the system. If a large enough dose is taken, death can occur within an hour from shock resulting from tissue damage.

Gardeners know that paracetamol is detoxified by contact with the soil. This fact is made use of in first-aid treatment, in which a strong suspension of Fuller's Earth is either given to the patient to swallow or introduced by a tube. If enough of the Fuller's Earth can reach the chemicals, a victim can be saved.

Supporters of Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton, North, who see him as an advocate of traditional British life, a reputation enhanced by his leadership of Tory rebels against the Immigration Bill, would be surprised by another cause he embraces.

Caroline Moorehead

Comment

Rape: will top judges pass longer sentences?

The Prime Minister has directed that only senior judges should preside over rape cases. She acted in response to a general feeling, encouraged by press reports, that judges were imposing extremely light sentences for what most people consider a very serious crime. Indeed, although the maximum penalty for rape is life imprisonment, the average penalty actually imposed is closer to three years in jail.

But will the Prime Minister's direction really mean tougher sentences? My research into rape cases tried at the Old Bailey - which make up a quarter of those in England and Wales each year - leads me to conclude that the new instructions issued by the Lord Chancellor are not going to make any real difference to the trial and sentencing of rape offences.

Criticism of the handling of rape cases by the courts has centred on the inactivity of some judges to the plight of the rape victim, and this manifests itself throughout the trial rather than just at sentencing. The more senior judges are also likely to be older, and perhaps more out of touch with the reality of contemporary attitudes. From my own observations, there is no evidence that they are necessarily more sensitive to the broader issues involved in trying rapes.

Nor is it likely that senior judges will impose heavier sentences than others. Indeed, my research as well as sporadic media reports clearly show that though there are occasionally considerable differences in sentencing, these are not particularly marked among High Court judges and others. They seem to reflect individual idiosyncrasies and personal bias rather than status.

There has been a good deal of anecdotal evidence over the years that High Court judges do sometimes pass as perverse sentences as some of the others who have been more prominent in the headlines recently.

When Judge Richards fined John

Allen last year, Mr Justice Melford-Stevens was quoted as saying that hitchhikers are effectively asking for rape. "A girl looking for a lift who gets into a car at night with a man she doesn't know can reasonably be said to be asking for sexual attention". A slightly less well-known fact is that his Lordship's last active contribution to British justice was to give another self-confessed rapist an 18-month suspended sentence.

Last year another man was given a £2,000 fine for raping a hitchhiker. The enormity of this apparent injustice was compounded by the judge's justification in saying that there had been contributory negligence by the victim. The controversy that followed led the Lord Chief Justice to issue strict guidelines for judges that "except in wholly exceptional circumstances, rape always calls for an immediate custodial sentence and that that sentence must reflect the seriousness of the crime".

That seemed to satisfy the public and the press for a few months. A storm of protest broke out again when a man who had admitted raping a six-year-old girl not only received a minimal sentence of 12 months' imprisonment, eight of which were suspended, but was then released from prison only 25 days after his conviction.

Erratic sentencing is only one aspect of the treatment of rape victims in the legal system. There are major obstacles at every step of the way from the moment a woman reports a rape to the jury's verdict and sentencing. There were numerous illustrations last year of the unsympathetic and sometimes downright hostile way in which the police and the courts treat alleged victims of rape.

The main point, surely, is that while individual cases such as the ones picked up by the media in the course of the last year serve to highlight the most severe inadequacies of the current system, piecemeal reforms based on these and made as concessions to public outrage will only lead to further anomalies.

The 1976 Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act was passed in a great hurry after another major public outcry, and its deficiencies are now only too clear. Meaningful change will be achieved only through a systematic review of the whole field of sexual offences in the wider context of the criminal law in general. Window-dressing may be a successful palliative to public opinion in the short term, but is unlikely to bring about the fundamental changes so urgently needed.

Zsuzsanna Adler

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Dyslexia: counting the costs

From Dr Robert Wigglesworth, Consultant Paediatrician, Cranford St John, Kettering.

I read your article about Jason Ayms (December 3) with interest, but regrettably little surprise. The following letters from parents (December 10) were equally revealing.

It would be interesting to cost in financial terms, as well as those of human misery, this failure to be alerted to dyslexia from two to three years of age onwards, then all the misery of failure in infant school, then junior school and finally senior school (where they no longer pretend to teach literacy).

Is it surprising, this failure to diagnose and treat a specific developmental syndrome, when too many directors of education, teachers and educational psychologists refuse to recognize its existence? Some even try to rule administratively that doctors of medicine, neurologists, paediatric neurologists and paediatricians are not competent to

diagnose such a developmental condition, even if they diagnose many other such problems of child development.

It is simply not good enough to dump a child with specific developmental dyslexia into a rag bag of reading backwardness among the dozens of other causes. Rather, more specific help than that is required. Finally, if anyone is tempted to think we are dealing with an insignificant problem, I trust they will be shocked into the world of reality and action to know that the best estimate of the incidence of dyslexia in the population is 4 per cent. No wonder we have so many literacy problems, not to mention the estimated two million adults in this country who are denied the skills and pleasures of reading at all.

● Tuesday fashion: tough togs and winter warmers

Ex-Vietcong arrested as Hanoi tries to purge the south

From David Watts, Singapore

The Vietnamese authorities have begun rounding up people accused of plotting and corruption in the Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) area.

The wave of arrests comes after Government claims last month of a big plot in the south in which "enemy agents" in senior positions had been involved. Those being arrested now include former Vietcong fighters, members of South Vietnam's opposition and intellectuals.

Many of them went through political reeducation seminars after the communist victory in 1975, but were not sent to the notorious reeducation camps as were many former members of the armed forces.

The alleged plot was revealed by Major-General Tran Hai-hung in an article in the *Vietnam People's Army Review*.

Describing the plans for armed insurrection in the south, he said "the enemy was using material wealth and the lure of an extravagant life style to induce a number of our former fighting armed forces and public

and complex... Our entire country must join the city in making even greater efforts."

The Vietnamese resistance movement abroad is taking credit for some of the authorities' discomfort. One of the techniques for sowing distrust in the south is to have lists of names and addresses of Army and political personalities in the south forwarded to them by dissidents inside Vietnam.

The resistance in Paris then sends unsolicited gifts and compromising notes to the addresses to embarrass and discredit cadres in senior positions. About 50 tons of gifts, money and consumer goods are flown into Ho Chi Minh City every week on the regular Air France flight via Bangkok.

Along with these goods, most of it ordered legitimately from relatives outside the country, the resistance also sends in copies of "bourgeois" Vietnamese novels and tapes of "yellow" romantic music dating from before 1975. According to the resistance, the music is particularly popular in the north.

Mr Le Du, the party leader concluded, "Ho Chi Minh City's economic and social problems are still very difficult

and complex... Our entire country must join the city in making even greater efforts."

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Longer Soviet space flights

The Soviet cosmonauts, Mr Valery Lebedev (left) and Lieutenant Colonel Anatoly Berezovoy (right), sharing a joke at a press conference in Moscow yesterday, at which officials said that the Soviet Union would further extend the duration of its manned space missions after their record-breaking 211-day flight last year (Reuter and AP report).

The officials said the mission had been a great success and had shown it was possible to move on to longer periods in orbit. Colonel Berezovoy and Mr Lebedev were on board the orbiting research station Salyut 7 from May until December and carried out a programme of scientific experiments.

"The clear trend in our space programme is a gradual lengthening of manned flights", Mr Yegeni Yorbayov, a Deputy Health Minister involved in the programme, told the press conference.

Space gardening, recordings of bird songs and visitors helped the two men to cope during their mission the conference was told.

It was the first time western reporters were allowed a first-hand look at the cosmonauts who landed in a blinding snowstorm in Soviet Central Asia on December 10 after breaking their country's own world space endurance record by 26 days.

Police post for Briton

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong

The appointment of another senior British police officer as Deputy Commissioner of Police in Hongkong and expected successor to Mr Roy Henry as Commissioner has been welcomed here, both inside and outside the police force.

Mr Raymond Anning, aged 52, one of Britain's Inspectors of Constabulary and adviser to the Home Secretary on police matters, will replace Mr Peter Moor,

missioner, another Englishman, who retires in June. Senior police officers in Hongkong expect him to become Commissioner when Mr Henry, also an Englishman, retires next year.

Officers from Scotland Yard have customarily been given senior postings in the Hongkong force. Chinese officers in the force have expressed support of the tradition.

Suharto brings in austerity

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

Included in the austerity measures were a 40 per cent fuel price rise, reduction of imports of consumer goods, the abolition of food subsidies, increased taxes, and the scrapping of a long-standing programme of providing civil servants with

President Suharto, who stands for reelection in two months, said that the Government had to take such austerity measures because of the country's dependence on oil revenues which provide some 70 per cent of state revenues and foreign exchange receipts.

Crude oil exports fell by 17 per cent as a result of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quotas and soft markets. Exports of timber, tin, rubber and coffee fell even more and foreign exchange reserves declined from a healthy \$7,500m (\$4,700m) to \$4,270m.

Fighting in Cambodia intensifies

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

The most sustained fighting of a year has been going on for the past fortnight between Vietnamese forces and national guerrillas in western Cambodia.

The fighting has caused heavy casualties particularly among Cambodian civilians living in camps on the border. A spokesman for the International Red Cross said yesterday that last month 614 guerrillas and civilians, many of them women and children, had been operated on for wounds caused by gunfire and land mines. In December, 1981, only 71 needed operations for similar wounds.

Four guerrillas have been killed and 50 guerrilla and civilian supporters of the non-communist Khmer Peoples National Liberation Front (KNPLF) have been wounded in the past week.

The KNPLF claims to have killed at least 40 Vietnamese soldiers and to have wounded many more. Vietnam has made no mention of the fighting.

The KPFLF, whose leader, Mr Son Sann, had an audience of the Pope on Wednesday, is bearing the brunt of the fighting. Intelligence analysts here say the Vietnamese are concentrating their offensive on non-

communist groups in the resistance hoping to knock them out before turning their attention to the stronger Khmer Rouge, the communist element in anti-Vietnamese resistance.

Thailand has prepared for the mass flight across its border of as many as 250,000 Cambodian civilians.

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, said last night at the end of an official visit to Thailand, that the solution to the Cambodian problem was in the hands of the great powers, particularly Russia and China, rather than smaller nations.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Passionate paradoxes

The Battle of Algiers (X)
Gate, Bloomsbury

The Return of the Soldier (A)

Classics Haymarket,
Tottenham Court
Road, Chelsea

Night Shift (AA)

Warner West End; ABC
Shaftesbury Avenue

Good films stay good, but time often changes their meanings. Gillo Pontecorvo's *The Battle of Algiers* has lost none of the impact it had when it won the Golden Lion of Venice and many of the other most coveted film prizes of 1966. Then, though, its account of the origins and techniques of terrorism seemed historical and theoretical. Now history has brought terrorism much closer to European experience and the film takes on vivid new relevance.

It was one of the first and best political thrillers, the drama of two implacable enemies in a deathlocked struggle. It is an extraordinary work of historical reconstruction. The whole film has the abrasive reality of newsfilm, though there is not a foot of actuality in it - even in the scenes of mass demonstrations. Few of the actors were professional: mostly the actual population of Algiers restaged the scenes of their own fight for independence in the years (then close in memory) from 1954 to 1962.

In the particular historical context Pontecorvo considers a recurrent, an all too familiar and finally a paradoxical historical phenomenon. Is terrorism - as the FLN believe it to be in this battle - a necessary first stage of every revolution; or is it rather the inevitable last stage of colonialism, when the impatience of the colonised and the reluctance of

the colonisers move into uncontrolled collision?

There is no doubt where Pontecorvo's sympathies lie. He shows the demand for independence as an irrepressible assertion of national and human dignity. The real enemy is greed and exploitation, whether of the French colonists, making hay even while the sun sets, or the whole-masters and drug-peddlers of the Casbah. But Pontecorvo never over-simplifies the moral issues, or underestimates the complexities of human beings.

The tortures used by the French paratroopers in their interrogations are horrible; but so is the slaughter of innocent bystanders in the FLN bombings. A young Algerian woman gazes, appalled but helpless, at her victim to be as she plants her bomb. The French paratroopers offer cigarettes as a kind of clumsy apology to an old man they have just been torturing. When Mathieu, the FLN leader, meets the FLN leaders it is with a mutual, professional respect. Pontecorvo's understanding is too radical for glib, behind-the-lines liberalism: when the French press corps attacks Colonel Mathieu, he retaliates that the ends that the French at home demand and the means that he employs are linked inevitably and inseparably.

For the record, Pontecorvo was born in Pisa in 1919. He was originally educated as a scientist (two of his brothers are distinguished physicists; one works in the United States, the more famous in the Soviet Union). He chose, however, to work as a journalist, then turned to documentary filmmaking. He made his first feature film, *The Long Blue Road*, in 1957, and since then has completed only four films, *Kapo* (1960), *The Battle of Algiers* (1965), *Queimada* (1969) and *Ogre* (1979).

The Return of the Soldier is based on Rebecca West's first novel, and from the opening scene of a nightmare of the First World War, Hugh Whitmore's screenplay serves every phrase and image with touching fidelity. For the gleaming, darting, dead-reckoning prose the film must however substitute painstaking period decoration, conscientiously studied performances and Stephen Goldblatt's shimmering, evocative photography. The story still holds up marvel-

lously well, even if the Freudianisms which must have been so new and startling for readers 60 years ago have now the creak of antiquity. Chris (Alan Bates) comes back from the war, shocked into acute amnesia which blocks out all memory of his marriage to Kitty (Julie Christie), a woman of his own privileged class. He remembers only the long-ago love affair with a working class girl, Margaret (Glenda Jackson). That Margaret is now middle-aged and plain and married can, in no way impair Chris's romantic image of her. The third woman of the trio who battles for Chris's sick mind is his cousin Jenny (Ann-Margret), who has passed from unrequited girlhood passion to unfulfilled spinsterhood.

In the book, Jenny is the narrator, unconsciously revealing herself as she describes what happens to others. In the film we rely on Jenny's looks and patient smiles which - excellent as Ann-Margret is: she is an actress who has come a long way - seem very muted after the book. So for that matter does the whole film. Fidelity is not enough; and Alan Bridges has not found a real cinematic alternative to the writer's perceptions. He is not much helped by Richard Rodney Bennett's pedestrian score or Luciana Arrighi's over-dressed sets (the residents of this country house display a quite out-of-period mania for candles and Victorian china).

Alan Bates offers a well-studied performance of the man whose retreat into a world of schoolboy jollity and passion seems like the evasion of a life unconformably dictated by privilege and possessions. Glenda Jackson redeems a lot of mannerism with moments of startling insight. Julie Christie fails to find any extra dimension to the selfish, arrogant and class-entrapped Kitty.

Night Shift offers a promising comic idea: a shy and put-upon financial analyst (Henry Winkler) quits Wall Street for a quieter job in the city morgue. Demoted to the night shift, he is induced by his belligerent and irresponsible colleague (Michael Keaton) into a scheme for using the morgue with all its advantages of privacy, automobiles and provision for the prose - as a call-girl agency with advanced ideas on hookers' liberation.

The trouble is that Lowell Ganz's script never quite gets the situations together, and Ron Howard's direc-



Long-ago love affair: Alan Bates and Glenda Jackson in *The Return of the Soldier*

tion never accurately points up the gags. It is a pity, because Winkler and Keaton are potentially a lovely comic team. Winkler has turned into a latter-day Edward Everett Horton, with his dawning sideways glances, nervous and appalled at the dangers which endlessly menace him - dogs, blind beggars, sandwich delivery men and his own virago fiancée whom he fortunately ditches in favour of a sweet hooker (Shelley Long). Keaton, with the face of a detached baby, complements this dumb suffering with the frenzy of a maddened wasp.

Circumstances prevented this column's usual review of the year, leaving the possibility only for a fleeting and belated last look round at 1982. It was the year of *E.T.* It was the year when the video-cassette recorder definitively took its place beside the television, dish-washer and record player among the indispensable equipment of the average home, and Britain (according to *Variety*) achieved distinction as the world's richest video piracy market.

In other respects it was Britain's annus mirabilis, with the Oscars for *Chariots of Fire*, the production

boost of Channel 4, the vindication of newcomers like Peter Greenaway (*The Draughtsmans Contract*), Neil Jordan (*Angel*), Colin Gregg (*Reverie*) and Karl Francis (*Giro City*) and the triumph of an old goer in Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*. It was the year of Lindsay Anderson's *Britannia Hospital*, which some of us admire a lot, but which rather more reviled. Time will tell.

It was the year (to grasp at a few that come to mind) of Costa-Gavras's *Missing*; the Taviani Brothers' *La notte di San Lorenzo* from Italy; Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *L'eroi*; *Ka Ioss*; Aparna Sen's *36 Chrowing*; *The Last Days of Pompeii*; *The Raft* from India; Karoly Makk's *Another Way*; and Peter Gothar's *Time Stands Still* from Hungary; and Igor Auzan's *We of the Never Never* from Australia.

It was a year of sad farewells. Two American old masters, Henry King and King Vidor, died; and so did Germany's young master, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and the cosmopolitan Alberto Cavalcanti. Of the great screen faces the year witnessed the departure of Henry Fonda, Ingrid

Bergman, Grace Kelly, the movies' favourite princess, Celia Johnson, Kenneth More, Arthur Lowe, John Beshu, Warren Oates, Curt Jurgens, Romy Schneider, Sarah Churchill, Fernando Lamas and the great Jacques Tati. Two of the best loved faces remembered from Thirties and Forties childhood, Arthur Askey and Chesney Allen (of Flanagan and Allen and the Crazy Gang), have gone.

Spare a thought, too, though her film appearances were rare, for Dolly Dimples, the World's Most Beautiful Fat Lady, who died at the creditable age, for one of her build, of 81. Born Celeste Herman Geyer, she did her apprenticeship in a candy factory, and weighed 300 pounds by the age of 16. She graduated to vaudeville as Jolly Dolly Geyer; and later, as Dolly Dimples, was a star of Ringlings and her own act, Wotta Fat Family. In time she saw the light, went on a diet, and wrote *Dolly Dimples' Weight Reducing Book*. Perhaps in that there is a moral and a New Year's resolution for us all.

David Robinson

Television Major mishaps

Irish humour can be a bog wherein many an Englishman founders. It being said that the mutual incomprehension of the two races is due to the inclination of the English to think an Irishman is being funny when he is being serious and vice versa. Translating the wonderfully comic stories of Somerville and Ross to television therefore requires sensitivity and wariness to a considerable degree if that irritating stage Irishness is to be avoided.

From the first instalment of Channel 4's six-part series, *The Irish RM*, last night, it seems that the dangers have been well appreciated. They might well have a success on their hands.

Peter Bowles is Major Veynes, who realises that a colonelcy will never be his and believes that the job of a real man is to be accepted, falls happily into the first category. All that bars his progress to gentle living is the necessary educational process which the English have to submit to if they are not to be driven mad by the incomprehensible ways of the natives, for whom tomorrow is always good enough.

The first instalment finds Major Veynes learning that in Ireland nothing is ever as it seems to be and is definitely not as it is described, the flexibility of the English language having been diverted to the cause of obscuring the unpleasant wherever possible.

His house leaks, his chimneys smoke, his whisky vanishes, and the local preference for fox hunting disturbs the birds he is hoping to eliminate himself. His efforts to ready the house for his fiancée are thwarted by all and, unknown to him, he has a poaching family as fellow residents.

Peter Bowles, escaping the suave roles which are his customary lot, makes a good job of the exasperating major personality for enlightenment through the enveloping mists. Bryan Murray bids to be a marvellous Flurry Knox, the fox-hunting Irish landlord whose view of his tenant's magisterial duties is that they should not be too inhibiting on traditional lawlessness. Dora Godwin plays the supportive fiancée with humour and Brendan Conroy, the housekeeper's simple nephew, "a bit of a dandy" in Flurry's words - contributed a charming Irish cameo.

Rosemary Anne Sissons, of *Upstairs Downstairs*, has provided the executive producer James Mitchell and the producer Adrian Hughes with a well-tuned script, and Robert Chetwyn's direction is deft.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Delight refreshed

Mr Cinders

King's Head

To those like me whose knowledge of English musical comedy begins and ends with *The Boy Friend*, this revival of Vivian Ellis and Clifford Grey's erstwhile smash (last seen in London in 1929) is a real eye-opener. It's all there: tennis parties, chinless wonders, besighted flappers, lawless parlor maids, and all the apparatus of privileged fun and games conducted inside a nursery of sexual innocence.

Everything that has brought the form into dispute is contained in *Mr Cinders*, which also happens to be an extremely well written comedy with its heart in the right place. I think the King's Head has a triumph on its hands.

The idea of converting Cinderella into the penniless nephew of a landed family yielded a pre-depression fairy tale of which Ben Travers would not have been ashamed. Grey and Greatrex Newman's book overflows with fresh comic incident, all of it logical and some of it (such as the substitution of a dog for the magical slipper) an improvement on the original.

But the key to their success is the tone in which they tell the story, which is at once kinder and sharper. The uglier - now two spoilt, pink-faced sons - turn out all right in the end by opting for the girls of their choice; and the only irredeemable nasty (as in Travers's plot) is their dragonish mother, forever propelling them towards heiresses and taking it out on her domestic staff to compensate for the loss of her stately home to an upstart American millionaire.

As for *Cinders*, alias Jim, what pathos can linger in a hard day's shopping on roller skates; or who arrives, after

saving the millionaire from drowning, wearing a beer barrel? Good old English sentiment is always lurking just under the surface, but, among the preening social climbers, baring their teeth in blazers and wisps of chiffon, the true lovers declare their feelings in dismissive jokes.

"Your eyes", Jim tells his beloved, "are like bluebells dipped in hot brilliance." What millionaire's daughter could resist that? And, having touched on the subject, that line is typical of the dialogue, which is always taking unexpectedly inspired turns and is blessedly free from mechanical puns and other hack devices.

Musically, you cannot say that Ellis and Richard Myers advance the plot, what they do is to sustain certain moments so that you want them to go on and on. The pre-ball trio for Jim and the uglier is one such number, a rollicking waltz conducted with increasing acrobatic daring over the family sofa. At the ball itself, *Cinders* appears as a titled explorer in fez and Hitler moustache, and seizes his moment in a song of the wonders of the Amazon where metronomes lurk in the mud along with the blood-drinking hippopotamuses.

Denis Lawson achieves a total clown transformation with that kind of material, while also getting the spirit of the show fully across in its central number, "Spread a Little Happiness", which he sings, hands in pockets, in the empty house.

Tony Craven's production achieves a sense of free unfettered movement on the tiny stage, and while his company, including Julia Josephs and Graham Hoadly, certainly point up the mannerisms of the period, it is the piece itself that comes over, not some patronizing parody.

Irving Wardle



Graham Hoadly (left) and Philip Bird as the uglier, with Denis Lawson's Mr Cinders

EBS/Gardiner

Barbican

It matters not how you play Bach, but how well. The onus is therefore severe on performers who try anything new, whether with electronics or reproduction. Eighteenth-century trumpets, because we know that the music will accept any novelty of style and draw attention only to accomplishment. On Wednesday, in performances of the first and fourth of the orchestral suites, the English Baroque Soloists showed how ruthlessly revealing the Bach test can be.

Within the empire of John Eliot Gardiner's ensembles, the EBS have become his regular orchestra for baroque music, and these performances were full of nice detail in the "authentic" manner: a pretty minuet for solo strings that needed no vibrato to give them beauty of tone, a woody warbling from the oboes in many of their footnotes, a flare from three natural trumpets. But much, the while, was going amiss.

There were a lot of rhythmic awkwardnesses, and slippery mis-tunings in those oboes, and the trumpeters, not unreason-

ably, were hesitant in trusting their instruments to the full. In the softer dances, too, the orchestra were plainly not living up to the dash, the bounce and the continuity of line that Mr Gardiner was expecting of them.

Something else stood in the way of the music's effectiveness. I have previously mentioned this hall's way of pinpointing sounds and of giving little resonance to the bass. Here the effect was to detach the timpani from the lower strings and to add to the D major Suite's pomp a splutter of detonations.

After the interval came more festive music, Bach's Magnificat, done complete with its Christmas decoration of interpreted seasonal messages. The more conspicuous orchestral points were here scored more certainly, and there were some pleasant contributions from among the soloists. Charles Brett's counter-tenor was clear, precise and even-touched, gaining with the flute in terms of graceful wit, and the soprano Anne Sofie von Otter seemed always to be singing through the golden laughter of divine joy.

The Monteverdi Choir also added much to a performance that preferred charm to majesty. When singing German they had

Le Vin herbé

Jeannetta Cochrane

Frank Martin's opera-oratorio *Le Vin herbé*, completed in 1942 and now revived by the London Music Theatre Group for the Camden winter season, is a work which could easily have been a disaster. For a start, by using the same story it invites comparison with Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, and it does so in a way which would seem to be a compromise at every level. Martin takes his libretto word for word from Joseph Bedier's *Roman de Tristan et Isolde*, using it riskily as a kind of *canon firmus* to fire his musical imagination, rather than resorting to something purpose-built.

And then there is Martin's music itself. There seems to be no reason why it should succeed at all. It draws only superficially on its influences: Bach in its linear aspects; something of

Opera

Ravel and Debussy in its atmosphere; and Schoenberg in its use of sequences of 12 different notes, though it discards associated serial procedures and retains notions of tonality approaching the conventional. But success the music does, at least here.

Dramatically, too, *Le Vin herbé* stands between two camps. Its emotive force and its natural speech rhythms are akin to Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, while its stylized action and its general austerity, and the function of the chorus, have much in common with Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*. And yet the interaction between these two extremes works well.

For this production, the London Music Theatre Group gave the version for 12 solo voices made for the 1948 Salzburg Festival. Where in the earlier version the soloists stood apart from the chorus, here they were emerging from and reverting to the ranks, heightening a ritualistic quality also helped by

Graham Waite's effectively simple lighting. The singing was confident, the voices young enough to blend together in chorus yet mature enough to lend life to each character. Despite a cold, Kenneth Brown, who sang Tristan, was powerful and moving, his tenor extending easily to top C. Virginia Browning's Isolde, although comparatively lightweight, showed a mesmeric involvement, while the bass, Malcolm Plenty, singing among other parts that of King Mark, displayed a pleasingly rich voice.

Highest praise though must be reserved for the young conductor, Timothy Dean, who clearly had the measure of the score's sometimes turbulent contrasts, and who directed the reliable accompanying piano and string ensembles, the ligo Ensemble, with as much panache as he did his singers. There is another performance tonight.

Stephen Pettitt

Concerts

the pure timbres and the clean articulation of a baroque organ, and the very ending of the work they gave with the playful, complicitous earnestness of children imparting secrets.

Paul Griffiths

PLG Young Artists

Purcell Room

Another meaty two-course repast from the Park Lane Group in its current Young Artists and Twentieth-Century Music series: once again, however, the hors d'oeuvre piano recital was more satisfying than the chamber music main course. Yoch Ean Mei is an interesting pianist; she despatched Praeludium Rainer's *Barbaric Dance Suite* with fire and fervour (though she did not quite attain barbarism), and then relaxed into a gorgeously hypnotic extract from Messiaen's *Jeux*.

Not all the chords were perfectly balanced, nor were the harmonies impeccably voiced, but she captured more elusive things - the ebb and flow of tension, the arch of harmonic intensification which Messiaen creates from his luscious se-

quences. There was no feeling here of aimless drifting, and in the *Regards des prophètes* Miss Mei created a splendid rumbling, pounding backdrop for the eastern warblings of the chant in the treble.

In the much more diffuse world of Tippet's Third Piano Sonata it was just an illusion created by the performance, or is the piece really directionless and rambling? - Miss Mei appeared bogged down by the first two movements. Colours were strongly drawn, the dotted rhythms of the first movement crisply attacked, yet there was an incisiveness and continuity missing. The slow movement lasted far longer than Tippet's indication, but then the finale's Toccata was swept together with amazing verve and pungency.

In the main evening concert, an oboe and piano duo rubbed shoulders with a piano trio: David Cowley's warm, wide oboe tone did not always sound under perfect control in Richard Rodney Bennett's Sonata, but he settled down to give a vivid, perky account of Richard Blackford's *Posthumous Leonardo*, musicalizations of two passages from *Cymbeline*. There was not sufficient subtlety in the quieter moments of Lutoslawski's delicate *Epitaph*.

but Dutilleul's finely-crafted Sonata blossomed and sang with Cowley's sonorous, evanescent approach. Bryan Evans accompanied expertly.

In Alexander Goehr's Piano Trio, the three highly skilled, technically excellent ladies of the Hartley Piano Trio were suitably dour, carefully dotting the Is and crossing the Ts of this thoughtful essay, but in Charles Ives's musical Piano Trio they were most unsuitably dour, turning his romp through popular tunes into a sober-faced quodlibet, and his yearning, uplifting hymn-like finale into a dirge.

Nicholas Kenyon

Treasures of Ancient Nigeria

"... they clearly rank among the greatest sculptures in the world."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Papillon

Sadler's Wells

Fetal Miller, who played the title part in *Papillon* at Sadler's Wells on Wednesday, is a soloist who will soon celebrate her tenth year with the company. She has played many roles, but, to adapt the old phrase, almost always a bridesmaid, rarely the bride. Such dancers, if they are as consistently good as she is, can be more valuable than those in the limelight, since they help keep up standards through bad times and good.

Small, pretty, always beautifully groomed, Miller never fails to go far out for any target, but without seeming pushy. Coming to the Royal Ballet as an outsider, Australian born and bred, and having danced also in Canada, she has remained something of an individualist, but one whose tough determination suits the general approach of the Sadler's Wells company.

Papillon is her first big role in London, and it would not be fair to complain that she finds little depth in it, because nobody else has done so either, at any rate in this production. (A duet staged by Pierre Lacotte

Dance

for Irina Kolpakova of the Kirov demonstrated that there could be more to the ballet than is allowed to meet our eye.) What she does is to perform the dances with a nice, bright quality, look wistful or happy as appropriate, and hope to hide the sad fact that Ronald Hyde's ballet has no heart.

His choreography falls between the stools of farce and romance, neither of them in fact very well done. The constant facetiousness takes the edge off what are presumably meant as more serious moments. What are we to think of a work that seduces an audience into laughing nervously and applauding a

scene in which the heroine is burned to death?

Bramwell Tovey directed the Offenbach score which, in spite of working one or two melodies pretty hard, and also in spite of John Lanchberry's sometimes raucous orchestration, remains the ballet's chief attraction. Tovey ensured a spirited performance: he should be as valuable to SWRB as he was to the Scottish Ballet. Congratulations, by the way, to the Scottish Ballet's Elaine McDonald, made OBE in the New Year Honours: richly deserved.

John Percival

The Draughtsmans Contract
A NIGHT BY PETER GREENAWAY
Starring ANTHONY HIGGINS JANET AZEMAN ANNE LOUIS LAMBERT
Produced by Peter Greenaway. Screenplay by Peter Greenaway. Directed by Peter Greenaway. Presented by The Draughtsmans Contract. Programmes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496,



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AS SHE LIKES IT

The job at the defence ministry is invested with exceptional political importance at this time. In addition to the usual requirements of being able to master complicated briefs in the fields of strategy, weapons systems and procurement, of being able to contain service pressures, and of being able to control costs with a stronger-than-average tendency to expand, there is now required of the minister a power of public persuasion.

The case for a strategy of counter-nuclear deterrence, and the case for not being pushed into one-sided disarmament, have to be reargued anew. Popular pressure to discard both positions is building up in Europe. It poses a threat to security via a threat to the balance of power. It needs strenuous and cogent rebuttal from the seat of responsibility.

Mr Michael Heseltine arrives with a good reputation on the administrative side of his duties. He has certainly had a firm grip on his own department of environment. But his long and spectacular contest with the local authorities is less conclusive. He never got them to bring their current spending down as he desired, while he has recently been on his knees imploring them to put their capital spending up. The rate support grant system stood in urgent need of reform when he arrived. It got it. As he leaves it stands in urgent need of reform.

To the rhetorical side of his duties Mr Heseltine comes with many a party conference

triumph behind him. That style will not serve in the national nuclear debate without modulation. But he can be relied on to argue with conviction and clarity, and to carry the argument into his opponents' camp.

Mr Tom King moves into his chief's office at environment, a deserved and expected choice. He has the slight disadvantage from the Prime Minister's point of view of being of the managing-director variety of Tory. The top of the party is already furnished with excellent examples of the type. The success of Mr Norman Tebbit as the hard man's populist suggests that a bit more of the same might be helpful to the Cabinet in its appearance. Dr Rhodes Boyson for instance. In politics as in broadcasting a regional burr is an asset, especially when as in this case it is the conduit of a strong intellect.

The Prime Minister has contented himself with filling the vacancy left by Mr John Nott's retirement and with a little redistribution in the middle and lower ranges of government - where Mr Timothy Raison's translation from home to foreign is the most interesting since he was in the eye of the storm over immigrant fiances. There was no pressing need for her to do more. She rearranged the Cabinet a year ago in a way that secured her authority over all aspects of policy, and the later departure of Lord Carrington - a loss in every way - reinforced that position. Her administration is not suffering from the fatigue that some-

times takes over as the fifth year of a parliament approaches.

The Prime Minister's line is consistency and resolution: that she knows the answers and that they take a lot of working out in practice; that the government took office with enough on its mind for two parliaments; that the ship is on course with half the voyage before it. The impression she wishes to create would not be improved by drastic changes of personnel. On the contrary, if the policies are right and all coming true there cannot be much wrong with the officers on the bridge. Besides, Cabinet shuffles that stop short of including the office of prime minister do not really cause people to feel that a new dawn has broken. Mr Harold Macmillan went about as far that way as it is possible to go in 1962 to no avail.

There are things to be done about the Cabinet, Mr Whitelaw would be more comfortable and useful in a senior coordinating role without a major department. The Prime Minister must let up on the Foreign Office and her Foreign Secretary or find a more compatible assistant for the post. Sir Geoffrey Howe cannot go on as Chancellor for ever - or can he? Sir Keith Joseph having been philosopher and guide to Mrs Thatcher, she is now her own, while he is left in a major spending department emitting contradictory signals that he has has or has not had enough. But these are matters that can be adjusted as conveniently after an approaching election as before, should the opportunity be given.

OUTLOOK FOR EMPLOYMENT

The year has begun badly for the unemployed. The figures just released for December show a rise of 41,000, excluding school-leavers, after 17,000 in November and 19,000 in October. If the trend continues it will take only two months for the unemployment total to exceed three million even on the new "claimants" basis. This method of calculation gives a number which is 250,000 lower than the old "registrations" basis. Hard reality refuses to be hidden by statistical adjustments.

The news is politically inconvenient for the Government. A period of several months of small rises in unemployment, or perhaps even one or two months showing declines, would be useful ahead of a general election. Much progress has been made on reducing inflation, keeping public sector finances under control and maintaining a surplus on the balance of payments. If the unemployment problem appeared to be easing only slightly, it would add completeness to the impression of an economy on the mend. But instead the numbers out of work continue to rise.

Not all the pointers to the employment outlook are gloomy. The last few months have seen a well-defined and quite strong revival of domestic demand. Consumer spending has been buoyant, with retail sales in the quarter to November

3 per cent up on a year earlier. The mini-boom seems to have gathered pace in December when many shops reported a record Christmas.

But the encouraging upturn in demand in Britain itself has been neutralized by a deterioration in the economies with which Britain trades. The second half of 1982 was the worst period for the world economy since the early 1930s, with output falling in nearly all the large industrial nations and collapsing in many low-income countries dependent on commodity exports. Britain has too small and too open an economy to insulate itself against such an unfavourable external environment.

The damage has been greatest in manufacturing industry which, because it exports half of its production, is much more vulnerable to economic events abroad than any other sector of the economy. The Confederation of British Industry's monthly trends surveys have consistently indicated below-normal export order books since the summer. Not surprisingly, job losses have been far worse in manufacturing than in services.

Where does economic policy go now? The Government has an obvious political incentive to try to stop unemployment rising further. It knows that fiscal refraction would be misplaced because the difficulty at present

is not a lack of spending power in the domestic economy. New credit is being extended by the banks and the building societies in greater amounts than ever before. The aggressive lending practices of these institutions, and not tax cuts or expenditure increases by the Government, have been responsible for the consumer recovery.

Further interest rate cuts would no doubt have worthwhile stimulatory impact, but there is an awkward and familiar obstacle. In the last few weeks the pound has been under persistent pressure on the foreign exchanges. If interest rates were lowered again, a full-scale sterling crisis might develop. That would be particularly embarrassing if it coincided with another poor set of unemployment statistics.

But there is a nice paradox here. The greater the Government's apparent perplexity, the weaker will the pound be against other currencies; and the more the exchange rate falls, the stronger will be the demand for exports and for British-made goods competing with imports. By accident speculators in the foreign exchanges may generate a helpful boost for manufacturing industry in an election year. If that helped to slow down the rise in unemployment, the Government should not complain.

ORDERED OUT OF THE HOUSE

Every day, up and down the country, husbands are turned out of their homes by court orders made in the course of pending divorce proceedings. An order of this kind is a drastic order: at any time, but it is particularly so when it is made before the divorce has been heard. In principle, such an order ought not to be made unless the court is satisfied that it is impossible for the parties to go on living under the same roof until the divorce, and that no other modus vivendi can be devised to regulate their occupation of the home in the meantime.

In approaching these cases the courts have quite rightly taken the view that the interests of the children must have priority. In practice this means that when a matrimonial order of injunction is granted it is almost always the husband who has to go: he is not normally in a position to combat the wife's claim to look after the children, and accordingly, if the situation at home is impossible, where it is he, rather than she, who must leave.

The recent decision of the Court of Appeal in *Richards v Richards*, however, goes much further than this. In that case the wife left the matrimonial home, taking the children with her, and went into temporary and unsatisfactory accommodation. She

then applied for an order of injunction against her husband, saying that she would not go back unless he was first made to leave. The judge who heard the case found that her refusal to go back except on this condition was unreasonable, but nevertheless he ordered the husband out. The Court of Appeal upheld his decision on the ground that the needs of the children were paramount.

The difficulties which face a judge who has to deal with human problems of this kind, which are in reality insoluble, can readily be appreciated. Nevertheless, the implications of the decision are worrying. Usually, a wife who leaves home with her children and takes refuge in uncomfortable and temporary accommodation has good reason for doing so. In the exceptional case, however, where the court forms the view that the wife is being unreasonable in refusing to go back while her husband is there, the situation is altogether different. If the court gives way to the wife's demands, and the husband is made to go, he goes because his wife says he must, not because the court thinks it reasonable that he should. She holds a pistol to the court's head. Should the court submit?

Two questions arise. First, is it really in the interests of the children that their father should be made to leave in these circumstances? What will be the

repercussions of such an order on future relationships within the family? The children's best hope of maintaining their relationship with their father after the breakdown of the marriage lies in cooperation between the adults. What are the chances of this after the order? It would hardly be surprising if the order were to induce in the expelled husband a sense of injustice and resentment towards his wife over her use of the children as the instrument to get him out. This may sour the prospect of that parental cooperation which the children need.

Secondly, there is the question whether the courts should not restrain their understandable inclination to further above all else the interests of the children (and thus of their mother) in situations of family breakdown. Should the children's needs be allowed to override all other considerations? If a father, faced with his wife's unreasonable insistence that he move out of the matrimonial home, does so voluntarily for the sake of the children, he makes the sacrifice of his own free choice. It is an altogether different thing for the court to force him to make it. An injunction is, after all, an equitable remedy. The requirements of justice to the family as a whole may not always coincide with what appear to be the children's immediate needs.

Constructive view on Britain's steel

From Mr Martin Upham

Sir, Mr Michael Grylls may be Chairman of the House of Commons Industry Committee, but if he wants to pronounce on steel (letter, December 15) he had better get his facts right. It was not Sir Charles Villiers but Sir Monty Finiston who was overruled, first by Mr Benn and then by Mr Varley, over "realistic" plans to cut back British Steel Corporation capacity to the size of the market. The home market was then strong (one third larger than it is today). When the Scholey-Villiers plan came in 1974/5 it cut BSC less than the size of the home market.

Moreover we are not faced with "the reduction of the British steel industry to that of our Continental neighbours". United Kingdom steel output was surpassed by France and Italy as long ago as 1974 and since 1979 we have made less steel than Belgium/Luxembourg. Under this Government the United Kingdom has sportingly cut back one third of BSC's planned steelmaking capacity, yet European Coal and Steel Community forecasts are for Community over-capacity to remain at today's levels in 1985. The United Kingdom industry has been closing plants regularly since 1977 and the only noticeable result has been to produce a situation where Mr Grylls wants more cuts.

Mr Grylls says our markets have declined more than other countries' markets. In 1979 the United Kingdom, consuming 368kg of steel per head, was at least in the same league as Belgium/Luxembourg (376), France (395) and Italy (400). Two years later the United Kingdom figure was 264kg/head, compared to Belgium/Luxembourg (319), France (325) and Italy (343).

This is merely another way of expressing the impact of the icy blast of monetarism on British industry, which cut its demand for steel by 18 per cent in the two and a half years from 1979. He wants BSC in line with the market; has he ever considered putting the market back in line with the nation's invested capacity at BSC?

Finally, Mr Grylls repeats third hand the old saw about Ravenscraig being far from its markets. True, it is some distance from its seat at Sunny, North-West, where doubtless they are well-placed to comment on unemployment in the North. But Ravenscraig diversified its markets

long ago, before the Linwood closure and this ought to be the cause for praise, not blame.

Besides, is there a single firm or country in the world where Mr Grylls would call for closure because they were far from their markets? Would he say it to the Japanese, who exported 28 per cent of their output, or to West Germany which exports 46 per cent, or to Belgium/Luxembourg which exports nearly 80 per cent? Perhaps you, Sir, will keep open a space in your columns for his reply.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN UPHAM, Research Officer,
The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation,
Swinton House,
324 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

From Mr J. K. Robertson

Sir, Mr Condon, in his article of December 16, suggests the advantages to the country of unrestricted steel imports and accuses the Government of a muddled policy towards this subject.

I also write as an economic observer of the steel industry over the last 25 years and would say Mr Condon's stockpiling view of steel is narrow in the most puerile sense. It ignores the sharp cyclical fluctuations of steel which have been experienced even with the seventies, when demand upswing caused short-term price hardening and a steel shortage.

This could easily occur again and most seriously affect consumers in countries without an indigenous steel supply; a position in which neither the Ministry of Defence nor British Leyland would have the slightest grounds either for comfort or for output planning.

In the very short term "cheap" imports can offer immediate benefit, but conditions in world steel change quickly; a steel user has to plan for his supplies in volume and in quality for several years ahead and it is to be hoped the present Government acknowledges the need for a viable core of indigenous British supply.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. ROBERTSON,
Primrose Cottage,
Brinkley,
Newmarket,
Suffolk,
December 16.

Clerics' marital stress

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour)

Sir, In writing about the report I recently published on how some married clergy wives are badly treated by the Church of England (December 20, 1982) Clifford Longley observes that the Church's answer to my "attack is beginning to take shape". The report, *Walking By on the Other Side*, was not written with the aim of attacking the Church, but of drawing its attention to the need to improve the care and help it gives to the wives and children of broken clergy marriages.

Mr Longley states that part of the Church's response will be to point out that some of the 24 broken marriages cited in the report go "back some years, when divorce was rare among the clergy". That being so, it is hardly surprising that the Church had no adequate procedures and made mistakes.

True, the break-up of some marriages does go back a long time, but 15 happened since 1976 of which seven occurred over the past two years. Moreover, some of the wives who filled in the questionnaire reported that their marriages were currently in the process of breaking up. At this moment one wife faces eviction, not because a new incumbent has been appointed who would naturally want to live in the parsonage, but because the Church wishes to sell the vicarage.

Mr Longley also states that the Bishop's wife has advised this wife to put her daughter into lodging and move into a homeless person's hostel herself or, alternatively, to go and lodge with a wealthy widow.

The Church would be wrong to think that the 24 families studied in the report represent the majority of

aggravated ex-wives. Partly as a result of the report's publication I am now in touch with an additional 20 or so wives and I shall be publishing a second report in the new year. Moreover, because my aim was to seek a reform, and not attack the Church, the first report played down all the sensational information supplied to me. My guess is that the headline writers of the popular press would have been kept busy for a week or more if I had reported fully on all that I was told.

What is now urgently required is for much more comprehensive information to be collected by the bishops on how many clergy families have been affected by separation or divorce over the past five years and what help has been offered to them by the Church. It is this kind of information which must be collected if the Church is to prepare a constructive response to *Walking By on the Other Side*.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK FIELD,
House of Commons,
December 24.

Setting the pace

From Mr Grenville Jones

Sir, The English Rugby team includes gentlemen named Hare, Dodge, Swift, Smart and Wheeler, with a Mr Trick waiting in the wings (*The Times*, January 5).

How can mere mortal Cels hope to cope with players possessed of such fleetness of foot and cunningness of character?

Yours faithfully,
GRENVILLE JONES,
20 Montpelier Row,
Twickenham,
Middlesex,
January 5.

Cassino destruction

From Professor Herbert Bloch

Sir, Due to circumstances beyond my control this much delayed reply to the two letters to *The Times* (August 23 and August 26, respectively) by Messrs John Canning and Raleigh Trevelyan attacking my booklet, *The Bombardment of Monte Cassino*. That account was first published in *Benedictine*, 1973, and reprinted as a pamphlet at the suggestion of the Abbey and has been out of the press since 1976.

Both letters are filled with so many inaccuracies that I can attempt to correct only a few of them. I am indeed, as Mr Canning charged, "a one-time German citizen" who left Germany soon after the ascendancy of Adolf Hitler, emigrated to Italy, and was expelled from that country in 1939 under a decree of Mussolini. My brother was murdered at an unknown date in Auschwitz. These facts hardly support what Mr Canning calls my "overwhelmingly pro-German bias".

As an objective historian, my only concern was to establish the truth about the causes and responsibilities for the bombing of the abbey and military effects of its destruction. My sources, amply cited in the booklet but apparently ignored both by Mr Canning and Mr Trevelyan, were largely official reports on the Italian campaign on the part of the Allied forces involved in the bombardment.

There was nothing "grudging" in my recognizing that the incorporation of the abbey in the German

defence system imperilled the abbey itself. In my booklet I ascribed "to the German High Command its share of responsibility". The question, however, was whether or not there were German troops in the monastery.

Unfortunately, because of its late appearance, I could mention only in an addendum the official British account of these events by Brigadier C. J. C. Molony, *History of the Second World War, The Mediterranean and Middle East*, vol. V, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1973, a work of prime importance. It was a source of special gratification to see how much the facts and views there presented agreed with my own.

The first two of the following references to Molony's book were cited by me:

1. "The Allies unhappily destroyed the venerable, famous Abbey of Monte Cassino, which appeared, quite falsely, to be the key point of the German defences" (p 69), italics.

2. "There is abundant and convincing evidence that the Germans made no military use whatever of the abbey building until after the Allies had wrecked them by bombing" (p 69).

3. "The Allied air forces had performed a most remarkable feat of precision bombing which brought no military advantage of any kind" (p 713).

In connection with General Tucker's crucial involvement in urging the bombing of the abbey, Mr Trevelyan quite amazingly states that General Tucker "did not want an attack on the abbey". General Tucker's responsibility in the decision to bomb the abbey is clearly stated by Brigadier Molony:

On February 12 at a meeting with General Freyberg [Commander of the New Zealand Corps] and in two written

Anomalies in divorce judgments

From Mr David Green

Sir, The Court of Appeal decisions referred to by Peter Duckworth and others (December 14 and 17) are not the only recent decisions to cause concern.

In *Bonning v Dodsley* (*The Times*, January 22, 1982) the Court of Appeal displayed astonishing logic in allowing a wife who had remarried to claim financial provision under the modern law despite the fact that that same law erects remarriage as a bar. In *Robinson v Robinson* (*The Times*, October 31, 1982) the Court upheld a magistrate's court decision that conduct (desertion) should reduce a wife's entitlement to maintenance - even though there were entirely adequate grounds founded in the modern law (the shortness of the duration of cohabitation) to justify discounting maintenance in the case.

If one adds to these the circumstances of *Richards v Richards* (*The Times*, December 8, 1982) and *Camm v Camm* reported in your news columns on the same day, one has a picture which comes disturbingly close to the dismantling of everything that has happened in family law since 1968.

For if these decisions are taken at face value the regime now promoted by the Court of Appeal is one in which remarriage is not a bar to claims for financial provision despite statutory provision to the contrary (*Bonning v Dodsley*; "final" financial settlements in divorce are not a bar to coming back for more (*Camm v Camm*); conduct is relevant to financial provision in the general case (*Robinson v Robinson*); and the best way for

spouses to keep the house is to fight like hell for custody of their children (*Richards v Richards*).

Even before these decisions the law governing financial provision, and to some extent, custody in divorce was a near disgrace. It is beyond that point now, and as 100,000 or more families every year are trapped in its tentacles, it is high time Parliament forgot about the lack of political mileage in the subject, and intervened.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Harding,
Castle Morris,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

From Mr C. H. Wilson

Sir, At the same time as many of your readers were welcoming Mr Peter Duckworth's letter (December 14), further "strange affirmations of the status of extra marital affairs" were that same day reported by you (*Lead*, January 5).

As Mr Duckworth exposes the amorality of an adulterous wife, with children, returning home to oust the husband, *Eade v Eade* shows that the husband who remains at home can, in his turn, avoid being ousted by taking in his own lady friend with children.

Whilst the law continues to ignore fundamental moral and Christian values, then these absurd judicial results will surely continue.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES H. WILSON,
McCulloch and Wilson, Solicitors,
High Street,
Handcross,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex.

Plan to end the GLC

From Mr Adrian Slade

Sir, Looking for another stick with which to beat the Labour Party in election year, a Conservative working group has, predictably, produced a plan to abolish the GLC. It is said that it is more important to Tories to score another point off Mr Ken Livingstone than to consider the implications for local government, when anyone who really cares about the effectiveness of democracy should be working towards more, not less, decentralisation of government to elected authorities at regional and local level.

The Tory plans, which, together with Messrs Heseltine and Howell's more recent moves, would return more powers to central government and put other into the hands of non-elected bodies like the London Boroughs Association and their proposed Metropolitan Transport Authority, must be firmly resisted by all.

Certainly the present GLC is in need of reform, but the need for an effective strategic authority for a capital city the size of Greater London should not be in doubt. Mr

Livingstone's clash with the Government on London Transport has merely highlighted the no-man's-land of power in which the GLC is expected to operate. Unfortunately some of his more extravagant and insensitive utterances, often on subjects unconnected with the GLC, have clouded the really important local issues.

We shall be campaigning strongly to retain the GLC, not because it is so perfect but because, even without a reform, it is the best regional authority London has got. Personally I would like to see more detailed GLC powers passed to the boroughs and more strategic powers over transport, roads, public services, planning and the river handed down from central government to the GLC, but meanwhile Mr Livingstone alone is no good reason for allowing irate Tories to put back the cause of devolved government for another 10 years.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SLADE,
Leader, Liberal/SDP Alliance Group Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1,
January 3.

'The Lads' Night Out

From Mr David W. Jones

Sir, according to the Chairman of the Stable Lads Welfare Trust, Sir James D'Avignon-Goldsmid, in his letter (December 20) about our television programme, *The Lads' Night Out*, I failed to honour an undertaking to the Trust in a letter dated June 18, 1982. That letter stated that although we did not intend to spell out the precise details of the Trust's expenditure (not expenses as Sir James mistakenly quotes) a copy of a recent set of accounts "would be very helpful in enabling us to give an overall balanced picture of your charitable endeavours".

As a registered charity the Trust's accounts should be a matter of public record, but the failure to lodge any accounts with the Charity Commissioners since 1976 meant that our only recourse was to Sir James and his fellow Trustees. When they duly sent us the accounts for 1981 we were surprised by a number of items. For example, although the income for 1981 was £120,000 and expenditure on recreational facilities was a healthy £53,000, administration costs were £34,000, and a total of £252,000 was

shown as being held in cash at the bank and £569 had been spent on "welfare donations". There appeared to be a remarkable discrepancy between the trust's stated aims and the use to which the money was put.

In our programme of December 9, we used a total of seven captions, showing the Trust's own figures in order to give a balanced description of the incoming, outgoing and retentions for 1981.

The cases of hardship shown in the film were included as evidence that there are many eligible people in need who are not being helped by the trust.

Had Sir James not declined to appear in the programme, he would have been given at least as much time as was given to Mr Sam Hornecastle, of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Sir James may reflect that Mr Hornecastle used that time to make a number of very telling points about the failure of the Sir Lads Trust to relieve poverty and sickness among any of his 650 stable staff members.

Yours etc,
DAVID JONES, Producer,
BBC TV,
Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12,
December 21.

Dark dangerous way

From Mrs Lois Siefert

Sir, I read with interest (report, December 14) of Mr Tony Banks' plans for the Festival Hall as a "round-the-clock" arts centre to attract a wider audience and improve attendances at evening concerts. How about helping them to get the hall after a day spent seeing exhibitions, craft markets and finally the evening spent at a concert or a visit to the National Theatre or the National Film Theatre near by?

The South Bank has become a dangerous place to walk at night and for those without private cars there is no facility. Could a bus shuttle service be offered, leaving at intervals to correspond with performances, taking passengers to Victoria Station? The Barbican offers transport to mainline stations. Yours faithfully,
LOIS SIEFERT, Board Member,
National Theatre,
South Bank, SE1,
December 16.

Graceful attributes

From Mr Alastair Laing

Sir, Ménéage, to illustrate the of a lamentably defective Latinity of the religious, has the charming story of Benedictine, who, not to be outdone in politeness by his Cistercian table-companion pronouncing the graceful "Benedictus benedictus", responds with: "Bernardus bernardus". Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR LAING,
1441, Sinclair Road, W14,
January 4.

Investment and finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

Stick to market forces

Merger policy under a strong right-wing Government such as we have in this country ought, according to the text books, to be clear cut.

It is a tenet of Downing Street capitalism that the efficient firms prosper and grow, while the inefficient wither and either slide into bankruptcy or taken over by a stronger organization which can, or thinks it can, make more profitable use of the victim's assets.

For the system to work, however, it is necessary for the market to be allowed to function without interference, so that when a company makes a takeover bid it can legitimately expect the shareholders in the company on the receiving end to be the ones who decide whether the offer is successful or not.

When the present Government came to power it gave many indications that this was what it wanted to happen as part of its overall strategy to create the climate in which British industry would be revitalized.

But events have turned out differently. Far from freeing the market, the Government has been as ready as any Labour administration to refer takeover bids to the Monopolies Commission. And that body, as the table on this page shows, has blocked as many deals as it has approved.

But making life even more difficult for companies planning a takeover is that the commission verdicts are increasingly quirky and unpredictable. They seem often to be based on the political or social prejudices of commission members rather than on any rational business theory.

The disadvantages of the current situation are obvious or ought to be to the Government, as well as being grossly unfair. It is up to the Government to clarify the position, to make a clear statement laying out its merger policy and explaining which it wants to encourage and those it seeks to dissuade. Then even if business does not like the policy, at least it will know where it stands.

Ulster call for tax incentives

By Our Correspondent, Belfast

Mr James Prior, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is sympathetic to the idea of tax incentives for investment in Northern Ireland rather than the present package of grant-aid inducements, Mr Saxon Tate, the chief executive of the province's Industrial Development Board, said yesterday. "In a memorandum which we were asked to prepare urgently, we were absolutely specific on what should be done and we even told the Government how it could be done without breaking the present tax rules," Mr Tate said. "The memorandum has not been rejected and while it is there, it is still in with a chance."

Mr Tate was speaking at the annual publication of Northern Ireland's economic survey.

The survey makes gloomy reading and predicts a rise in Ulster's seasonally adjusted unemployment from 108,100 to about 117,000.

First-half rise at Howden

Howden Group Half-year to 31.10.82
Pre-tax profit £2.5m (23.3m)
Net income £1.46m (same)
Share price 182p, down 3p. Yield 1.2%
Dividend payable 1.3.83

Howden Group, the Glasgow-based engineering and air handling equipment company, increased pre-tax profits by about 6 per cent to £2.5m in the half-year October 31.

The group does not publish interim sales figures, but has a satisfactory order book and expects a similar increase in profits at the final stage.

Important orders for equipment for new power stations in Hongkong and South Africa have been won recently though the benefits may not be reflected until next year.

GUS told to reduce stake in mail order group

Sears may bid for Empire after Monopolies veto

By Jeremy Warner

Sears Holding was last night seeking to open takeover talks with Empire Stores, the Bradford-based mail order group.

This followed a unanimous recommendation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday that Britain's Universal Stores (GUS), be barred from bidding for Empire and that it be forced to reduce its 30 per cent stake in Empire to less than 10 per cent within two years.

Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, Sears chief executive, said the group, which includes Selfridges and shoe retailers, would be interested in mounting an alternative bid if certain conditions were satisfied.

Sears interpreted the Commission's recommendations that GUS be forced to reduce its existing shareholding so that Empire might pursue alterna-

tive courses of action or associations as confirmation that Sears could expect to escape a Monopolies reference if it mounted a bid.

Mr Maitland Smith said his company would give undertakings not to supply Empire with footwear from its British Shoe Corporation offshoot, should the Office of Fair Trading consider it a necessary condition of avoiding reference.

On the stock market yesterday, Empire shares dropped to close at 76p but recovered after hours to 86p in anticipation of a fresh bid from Sears, which already has 7 per cent of the company's shares.

However, considering Sears' attitude that the price of Empire shares "is excessive", a bid would face severe difficulties in getting off the ground.

Empire's directors were hinting last night that they would

not be prepared to back a bid which was lower than the 112p offered by GUS before its takeover was referred last May.

Sears was also stressing that any bid would be dependent on GUS agreeing to sell its stake sooner rather than later.

GUS paid an average of 112p per Empire share for its holding and will be reluctant to sell out for less. Moreover, it might decide to retain its stake for the maximum time permitted, in order to frustrate Sears' ambitions.

Mr Harold Bowman, joint assisting managing director of GUS, said, "We have two years to sell our stake so there is no sense of urgency. We would indeed be reluctant to sell for less than we paid."

It is believed that Sears paid no more than 80p a share when it built up its 7 per cent stake in Empire last November. Under

City takeover rules, Sears does not have to bid any more than the maximum price it paid in the past.

Empire, which reported a half year pre-tax loss of £1.97m last October, said that trade had picked up significantly in the last two months. But Mr John Gratwick, the chairman, confirmed that despite the improvement, results for the year would still show an overall loss.

The Monopolies Commission concluded that the GUS bid should not be allowed because "A material increase of market share by acquisition would increase GUS's power to influence prices and weaken its competitors, reducing effective competition".

The Commission rejected GUS's argument that no distinction could be drawn between mail order selling and other forms of retailing.

Mergers referred to and verdicts of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission since May 1979

For	Against	Laid aside	Result unknown
Blue Circle/ Armistead Shanks S&W Barford/ British Sugar Europcar/Godfrey Davis	Hiram Walker/ Highland Distillers Lorho/House of Fraser Enserch/Davy	Grand Metropolitan/ Coral Leisure Argyll Foods/Unifood Huntley & Palmer/ Rowntree Macintosh Prosper De Mulder/ Midland Cattle Products	Sunlight Services/ Johnson Group Cleaners Initial/Johnson Lifood/Fitch Lovell Ilfordworth Morris/ Abels
BTR/Serck ICI/Arthur Holden Huntley & Palmer/ Nabisco	European Ferries/ Sealink Standard Chartered Bank/ Royal Bank of Scotland Hongkong & Shanghai Bank/ Royal Bank of Scotland Great Universal/Emire		

Stockbrokers may go limited

By Jonathan Clare

Stockbroking firms are almost certain to be allowed to trade with limited liability, probably within a year. Under present Stock Exchange rules partners have to guarantee their firm's debts with their personal assets.

The senior partner of one of the biggest firms said: "Limited liability is highly desirable. If we don't go down this route and stockbrokers will be at an enormous disadvantage compared with our US competitors." Firms operating inter-

nationally need more outside capital to put themselves on a similar footing to their competitors.

By the end of this month the senior partners of every firm will have to tell the Stock Exchange Council whether they want limited liability. The indications now are that they will vote overwhelmingly in favour of the idea.

In practice, most partners put their assets in their wife's or husband's names which provides effective protection.

The Stock Exchange says its discussion document, which was sent to senior partners last November, is just to test the water. It concedes privately that the council would never have gone to such lengths unless it was convinced opinion was in favour of the change.

Firms trade with limited liability would have to publish accounts available to the public. That is the main reason so many favour the change but they will still trade with unlimited liability.

Saudis deny plans to cut price

By Jonathan Davis
Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia added a new element of uncertainty to the world oil markets yesterday by saying it had no plans to cut its \$34-a-barrel oil price.

The official Saudi press agency said that Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, had not discussed a price cut at his meeting earlier this week with the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), the consortium that lifts the bulk of the kingdom's oil production.

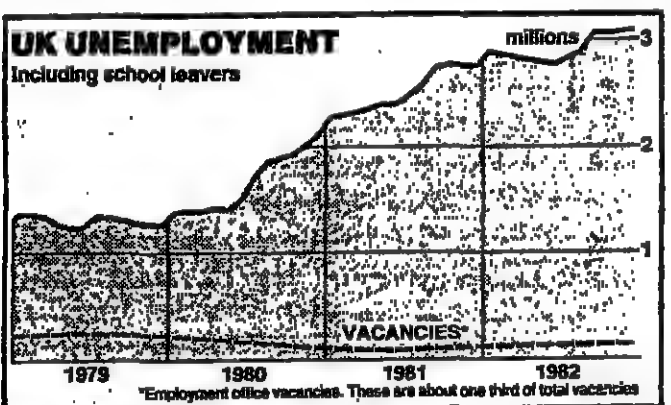
The statement is the latest twist in a series of reports and leaks that have alternately indicated that Saudi Arabia would or would not make a reduction in the official price of its oil.

Industry observers believe, however, that a Saudi price cut, possibly of \$1.50-a-barrel, is still a distinct possibility, although no announcement is likely until after the next meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which comprises six conservative Arab states.

A meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' market monitoring committee is also scheduled for next month.

Whether or not Shaikh Yamani discussed a price cut with Aramco at the Geneva meeting on Tuesday, there is no doubt that the four companies in the consortium - Exxon, Mobil, Standard Oil of California and Texaco - pressed the kingdom to cut its price.

The American oil company Conoco and its partners in the Hutton field are likely to make a formal decision today whether to raise the price in the platform repaired in this country or rebuild overseas.



Unemployment rose sharply again last month to its highest recorded level. The number of people without jobs, including school leavers but not seasonally adjusted, rose by about 34,000 to 3,096,997, or 13.3 per cent of the workforce. However, the Government maintains that the change in the method of calculating unemployment, made last October, means it is difficult to say at what rate unemployment is rising. School leavers made up 131,000 of the total. There were 2.57 million people under the age of 60 who had been without a job for longer than a month. Vacancies at Job Centres rose by 3,000 to 118,000. But the real number of vacancies is thought to be between 275,000 and 325,000.

Bank steps in again to defend sterling

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Sterling came under renewed pressure on the foreign exchange markets yesterday, leading to further Bank of England intervention to halt the slide.

After opening lower, the pound met selling throughout the day, and even Saudi Arabia's assurance that it would not cut oil prices provided no more than a respite. Sterling closed 1.35 cents lower at 1.6085 against the dollar and 0.6 down at 82.9 against a basket of currencies.

Its trade-weighted value - its lowest level since the index was introduced two years ago - is now over 10 per cent lower than at the beginning of November when the slide in sterling began.

The scale of official intervention last month to ease the

drop in the pound's value has added to nervousness in the markets.

It appears that sentiment in the markets is firmly against sterling even though interest rates in Britain are getting increasingly out of line while further falls in United States and European interest rates are still expected.

With period money market rates firming by up to 1/2 per cent yesterday, the three-month interbank rate at 1039/16 is now comfortably above three-month Eurodollar rates of 8 1/2 per cent and there are expectations that the US Federal Reserve will soon cut its discount rate from the present 8 1/2 per cent.



Gill: claiming damages

Gill dispute may not reach court

By Our Financial Staff

The battle over Mr Jack Gill's £750,000 golden handshake from Associated Communications Corporation (ACC) is unlikely to reach the High Court for at least a year, legal sources said yesterday.

Both sides hope to settle the dispute out of court before then. Sir David Napley, representing Mr Gill, is negotiating with ACC's legal representatives within the next few months.

Mr Gill, who was number two to Lord Grade, former chairman of ACC, has served a writ on the company alleging wrongful dismissal and claiming "substantial" damages.

When he was dismissed by Lord Grade, Mr Gill was earning more than £100,000 a year. There is some dispute between the two parties whether he was on a five-year or a seven-year contract.

Lord Grade undertook to pay Mr Gill £560,000 cash and the opportunity to buy his company house for £165,822, nearly £110,000 below the market price.

But ACC was subsequently taken over by the Bell Group, led by Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian entrepreneur who became chairman.

Together with other directors, Mr Holmes a Court decided in September to revoke the golden handshake, although Mr Gill was left with a £72,000 pension.

The setback for Mr Gill came after Mr Holmes a Court enfranchised non-voting shares in the group. Votes against the payout topped 51 million and those in favour were 365,000.

Report opposes Harrods demerger

By Barrie Clement

Another dispute, bitter even by the standards of House of Fraser and Lorho, is looming over an internal report prepared by the stores group investigating the possibility of floating off Harrods as a separate company.

An internal report has been completed which is thought to have initiated Lorho directors on the Fraser board. Lorho owns nearly 30 per cent of the stores group.

The secret report, a document about one and a half inches thick, investigates the pros and cons of the idea. It is thought that the report, in summary, is against the principle of the demerger.

Lorho, whose plans to take over House of Fraser have been thwarted by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, called an extraordinary meeting of Fraser in November, urging the separation of Harrods.

It also now doubtful whether the Fraser board will be able to meet the 90-day deadline for another extraordinary meeting to discuss the report with shareholders. The deadline for the meeting is February 2.

Lorho hoped initially that the investigation was to be conducted by an external organization, but the Fraser board with its advisers have been largely responsible. An unnamed American retailing consultancy has also been involved.

The Fraser board has yet to decide its official attitude to the report, but its wording and the arguments deployed with the known attitude of Professor Roland Smith, Fraser chairman, could mean that the demerger will not be recommended to shareholders when the extraordinary meeting takes place.

The House of Fraser said: "Work is continuing on the demerger report and we will be consulting shareholders as soon as possible."

It is unlikely the initial report will ever see the light of day, partly because it contains information which could be of use to competitors. The board will probably publish extracts from it with their comments.

If the majority of the board goes against the demerger, there is little doubt that Lorho will initiate yet another round of public debate which in the past has lurches from the acrimonious to the farcical.

There is little doubt that the Lorho-sponsored motion at the November extraordinary meeting to investigate the possibility of the demerger won substantial support from shareholders; votes for numbered more than 72.4 million, votes against 31.35 million.

Charter to renew bid next week

By Our Financial Staff

Charter Consolidated is expected to make a new bid next week for the Scottish mining engineering group Anderson Strathclyde. The bid follows the Government's unprecedented decision to overturn a Monopolies Commission recommendation that the bid should not proceed.

Charter is understood to have no decision on a bid price. Speculation in the stock market yesterday was that it would offer about 185p a share.

This would value Anderson at £88m and involve Charter, which already has nearly 30 per cent of Anderson's shares, a cash outlay of £6.6m.

Mr Ian Little, Anderson's chief executive, believes his company would have no difficulty in resisting a bid at such a price.

Anderson shares were up 10p at 168p at one stage yesterday, before closing at 164p. The rise was partly a reflection of a buying order for over 100,000 shares. Jobbers have been dealing in quantities as small as 2,500 shares in recent weeks.

Charter is continuing to evaluate the effect on the value of its bid of Anderson's proposal to buy a controlling interest in National Mine in the United States for up to £20m. Though it is unlikely to oppose the acquisition, it is bound to argue that the acquisition is damaging to Anderson in the short term.

The Commons is expected to debate the Government's decision to give Charter the go ahead shortly after Parliament opens again on January 17.

News in brief

International

Argentina is to introduce a new currency later this year to replace the peso, which has fallen in value to 49,000 per dollar from 10,000 over the past 12 months. The new currency will be worth 10,000 units of the old money and will be introduced sometime after February.

US car sales, have fallen to 5.76 million vehicles in 1982, the lowest level for 21 years. Industry analysts said the 7.2 per cent fall in new car deals was one of the worst on record, surpassing the two-year slump in the early 1970s and almost as bad as the 5.56 million figures for 1961.

Markets

The pound fell sharply on the foreign exchange markets yesterday closing 1.35 cents down at \$1.6085 and 3 1/2 pennings lower against the Deutschmark at DM3.7750. Its trade-weighted value slipped 0.6 to 82.9. Gifts fell by more than £1.

The Brazilian Coffee Institute estimates the 1983 coffee harvest at 29.4 million bags - in line with expectations but still discouraging. The final official estimate for 1982 is of 16.2 million bags.

Companies

Midland Bank has followed the other big three clearing banks in putting up bank charges. Charges for cheques and standing orders will rise from 20p to 28p but there is no rise for other debit items. The notional allowance is being set at 4 per cent below 7-day deposit rates, currently 7 per cent.

Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, is not to refer to Steelstock.

The industry has been working at less than 50 per cent capacity in the last two years and the merger will result in a concentration of the producers' activities at the Brymhill site at Tipton near Birmingham.

A new company, Bright Bars, is to be formed after approval of the deal by the European Commission. Then BSC is expected to have a minority stake.

TODAY

Interims: East of Scotland Onshore, Raybeck.

Economic statistics: Housing starts and completions (Nov), car and commercial vehicle production (Nov-final), slum clearance (1981-82).

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Base rates 10-10 1/2, 3 month interbank 10 1/2, 10 1/8.

Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 8 1/2, 9 3 month DM 5 1/2, 5 1/4 3 month-Fr F 23 1/2, 22 1/4. ECGD Fixed Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period December 8, 1982 to January 4, 1983 inclusive: 10.833 per cent.

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.085 down 1.35 cents Index 82.9 down 0.6 DM 3.770 Fr F 10.7175 Yen 370.25 Dollar Index 117.1 up 0.1 DM 2.3487 up 12 pts Gold \$454 \$2.50

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 615.1 up 2.4 FT 100 80.46 down 0.88 FT All Share 352.24 up 2.14 Barsegna 21.747 Tring All USM Index 149.5 up 0.9 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones 8,120.51 up 54.38 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 772.50 up 2.53

PRICE CHANGES

Chubb 23p, up 3p De Beers D'f 421p, up 17p C. E. Heath 306p, up 26p Leslie 275p, up 26p Phillips Lamps 695p, up 15p Unilever 815p, up 20p

Chubb 124p, down 5p Elect Rentals 69p, down 6p RP Martin 340p, down 10p Owen Owen 165p, down 5p Royal Worts 150p, down 5p Sotheby 450p, down 7p

JESSUPS

Main Dealers for Vauxhall-Opel, Bedford and Ford, Contract Hire and Leasing, Commercial Vehicle Bodybuilding.

	Year to 31st August	1982	1981
Turnover	£000's	36,008	28,680
Profit before tax	£000's	247.6	90.4
Earnings per share		7.65p	0.90p
Dividend per share		2.0p	2.0p

Chairman, Mr Alan Jessup, reports to Shareholders:

- * The current year has begun with a substantially higher level of sales.
- * Vauxhall-Opel are on course for their projected 16% market share.
- * Ford will doubtless retain their market leadership.
- * In Vauxhall-Opel and Ford we surely have the best franchises for 1983.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from The Secretary, Jessups P.L.C., London Road, Romford, Essex RM7 9QS. Telephone: Romford 22311

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212 The Over-the-Counter Market

1981 82	1982 83	Company	Price	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	%	%	%
133	120	Ass Brit Ind Ord	133	-	6.4	4.8	7.8	10.2	19.0
150	117	Ass Brit Ind CULS	150	-	10.0	6.7	-	-	-
74	57	Airtrung Group	65	+1	6.1	9.4	7.4	12.7	-
46	37	Armstrong & Rhodes	38	+1	4.3	11.3	4.3	7.5	-
285	197	Barton Hill	285	+1	11.6	4.0	12.0	15.1	1.5
123	100	CCL 11.0% Conv Pref	122	-1	12.7	12.9	-	-	-
270	240	Cindico Group	247	-	17.6	7.1	10.0	11.2	-
86	60	Deborah Services	61	-2	6.0	9.8	4.0	10.9	-
151	125	Frank Horrell	151	-	7.9	5.2	6.3	6.8	-
83	62	Frederick Parker	62	-	6.4	10.3	3.1	6.0	-
55	38	George Blair	38	-1	-	-	6.6	13.8	-
100	78	Ind Prec Castings	80	-	7.3	9.1	10.3	12.9	-
135	100	Isis Cov Pref	135	-	15.7	11.6	-	-	-
123	94	Jackson Group	122	-	7.5	12.2	3.8	7.8	-
172	111	James Burroughs	170	+1	9.6	5.6	12.4	13.8	-
260	172	Robert Jenkins	174	-2	20.0	11.5	1.9	27.6	-
83	54	Scotlans "A"	74	-	5.7	7.7	9.6	11.6	-
167	118	Torday & Carlisle	119	-1	11.4	9.6	5.3	9.2	-
29	21	Unblock Holdings	24	-	0.46	1.9	-	-	-
85	71	Walter Alexander	74	-	6.4	8.6	5.3	7.6	-
251	214	W. S. Yates	254	-	14.5	5.7	6.7	14.1	-

Stock Exchange Prices.

Gilts dull

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 31. Dealings End, Jan 14. Contango Day, Jan 17. Settlement Day, Jan 24.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

1982/83 High Low Stock Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E	1982/83 High 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Meaning of normal retiring age

Necessary'

in the performance of those duties notwithstanding that the expenditure incurred "necessarily in the performance of those duties, at distinction was too subtle. The same test had to be applied (section 47(1)) as under section 47(2) of those duties, and as a fact that vicar vicar had performed the religious try without the equipment and that he would have been able to do his job without the equipment.

had purchased the equipment in order to carry out duties as vicar with less devotion to work might not have thought it try to perform, but in order to him his duties as vicar in what he was required to be the most we have.

The findings of fact were consistent with the commissioners' determination and the award was allowed.

Solicitors, Solicitors of Inland Revenue, Bristol

Proper law of Lloyd's policy

Necessary'

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The findings of fact were consistent with the commissioners' determination and the award was allowed.

Solicitors, Solicitors of Inland Revenue, Bristol

Equipment for visual sermons not ‘necessary’

The commissioners had as a fact that another vicar have performed the religious duty without the equipment and that his job would have been able to do his job without the equipment. The vicar had purchased the equipment in order to carry out duties as a vicar with less devotion to work might not have thought it necessary to perform, but in order to perform his duties as vicar in what was considered to be the most effective way. The findings of fact were consistent with the commissioners' determination and the vicar was allowed.

کذا من الاصل

CRICKET: AUSTRALIA UNDERLINE THEIR SUPERIORITY

Last rites before surrender of Ashes

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Sydney.

Any lingering doubts there may have been as to which is the better side were dispelled here yesterday when Australia, to all intents and purposes, made sure of regaining the Ashes. Having overcome an awkward opening on a turning pitch they took their second innings from 90 for three to 382 all out. Needing 460 to win England found time in the three overs for which they batted to lose Cook.

A superb innings by Hughes took pride of place. Until yesterday he had not made a first-class 50 in Sydney. Technically and temperamentally it was a quite outstanding piece of batting. In this form there is among the English school, no better player in the world. His innings could be used as a model of how to play oneself in on a turning pitch and of how then to carry the attack. His judgement of length was unerring, he was quick on his feet and played beautifully straight. His partnership of 149 with Border, who played extremely well, put a virtual end to England's hopes.

Hughes may finish the series as the only batsman on either side to average 50. His scores have been 62, 39, not out, 66, 48, 29 and now 137. The English spinners, Hemmings and Miller, given the chance they had been waiting for, failed to take it. It will be said on their behalf that Hughes was against them. On Tuesday, caught at short leg off Hemmings, but the umpire was not sure, and that was that. Yesterday, in gorgeous weather, the only wicket they took before tea was Hughes's, in time, in fact, to keep the game open.

When it mattered most, during the morning, the batsmen were given too much rope. To be frank, Miller's record (53 wickets in 31 Tests before this one) is not that of a match-winner. I had high hopes of Hemmings, who took eight wickets in the match before being bowled. The morning's play alongside Jim Laker and Hugh Naylor, two great off spinners whose fingers, though they are 39 and 53 respectively, were itching to bowl not only of what they might have done, but of Timmus, who used to bowl so well here, and even of Embury, earning his keep in South Africa.

When play started Australia, with seven wickets in hand, led by 167 runs. If England could restrict their last seven to say 120 they might still

BBC coverage 'a success'

The BBC's first venture in television live cricket coverage on television by satellite from foreign parts in the early hours of yesterday morning was a considerable success, according to a spokesman, although actual viewing figures are still awaited.

With the final Test in an interesting stage, the decision was taken to show two hours live from Sydney. However with Australia well at bat, and hearing in mind a highlights programme on BBC 2, today it was decided the audience would not be big enough to justify the cost of showing the cricket again last night. "But we had many complimentary calls," the BBC said. "Viewers have been learning about the viewing figures will be studied with great interest."

have a chance. It was by no means unthinkable. With the ball turning, slowly but at times appreciably, the Australians were understandably apprehensive. To such an extent did Willis put his faith in Hemmings and Miller that by the time the new ball was taken, 40 minutes after lunch, he and Border had bowled barely a dozen overs between them. During the first hour as the two sides contested the initiative, it was an enthralling contest.

After 25 minutes Hughes, half forward to Miller, was leg before, playing, for non-existent turn. Another wicket then and England were still in the match. But it was not to be. Hughes played almost faultlessly. His one great stroke of the highest class, a tall, detached figure, doing a very difficult job to the best of his ability. Hughes and Border are probably the best players of spin bowling in Australia. By lunch, taken at 194 for four, they had made Australia more or less safe from defeat.

A poor morning for England was followed by just as unsuccessful an afternoon. Willis decided that the time had come even for Cook to bowl. Within their self-imposed limitations the batsmen began to do much as they pleased. In his second over with the new ball, taken as soon as it was due, at 246 for four,

Willis was hit for three fours. There was some brilliant strokeplay, with the hooking of both Border and Hughes bringing the crowd (31,716) to its feet, as did a drive for six, high into the hill, by Hughes and also the cover drive which took him to his eighth Test hundred, three of them against England.

In the 37 overs of the morning Australia scored 104 runs for the loss of Hughes. In another 35 between lunch and tea they made 114 for the loss of border, blisteringly caught at slip by Border. By lunch, taken at 194 for four, they had made Australia more or less safe from defeat.

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Book review

Fresh eye and balanced view on bodyline

Ronald Mason has written several good books about cricket, the best of them, I think—at least up to now—his biography of Hobbs. He tells us that he hesitated for years before writing *Ashes in the Month* (The Hambledon Press, £7.95), which is about the "bodyline" tour of Australia in 1932-33. He did not write it until he had consulted, including some who played in the matches, were inclined to think that too much had been written about it already, and wondered whether it would be right to revive these old forgotten "ban-off" things, and battles of long ago.

I am glad he did decide to write it, and that he took his time about it. Certainly much has been written about that series, but nearly all of it by participants, or those close to it. The best first-hand account we have is Jack Fingleton's, but though he waited fourteen years before putting it into print, even he still had the smell of battle in his nostrils, the thunder of the captains' and the shouting and cried he had among the trumpets.

The account by D. R. Jardine, the English captain, is curiously flat reading at times as Mason acutely observes almost as if it had been ghosted, though Jardine was a literate man. Bradman said that you could read Jardine's book from end to end without discovering what bodyline was. The account by Larwood, the demon bowler, was ghosted, and throws little light on his inner feelings.

The account by Warner, the English manager, is interesting, but he is so concerned to exculpate himself that it has to be treated cautiously as evidence. So there was a real need for a balanced account to be written, from a distance in time, by someone who was not a participant. Mason so widely read

Larwood: 'compact perfection'

in cricketing history, was just the man for the job.

He is a good writer, occasionally a little pedantic, but that is a defect of his quality. I enjoyed the paragraph on great fast-bowlers: "Gregory bounded joyously at his victims. McDonald's devastating bullets were loosed out of the creeps of a light caressing grace. Constantine leaped and grinned. Tyson lunged and lumbered... and Larwood somehow had a compact perfection of combined grace and utility that outdid them all. He demonstrated a classical beauty of movement at the same time as he embodied an entirely effective co-ordination of strength and power."

He explains the difference between Jardine's remorselessly

applied "leg theory" (as many as five balls out of six were bouncers aimed at the body, with as many as eight men on the leg side) and later terror.

"Horrendous as Lilke and Thomson could be... they did not have at their backs the same kind of determined logical policy that Jardine conceived of, I am bold to suggest, the technical accuracy that Larwood commanded, nor did they have the support of a crowded legside field. They were two gifted and vigorous individualists thirsting for blood, honour and glory in English cricket. For instance, in 1935, in *For England and Yorkshire* (which he wrote himself) Herbert Sutcliffe explains the background to it in frank but rational terms. Sutcliffe was Jardine's senior professional, and a master of the hook stroke, but he does make a case, which ought not to be allowed to go by default. Nor perhaps a reason take into account the depth of English public opinion, not just that of a fuddled and ignorant man in the street. A G. MacDonald's novel, *How Like an Angel*, one of his best satires, is an essential authority for the English reaction. I am driven to the conclusion that Mason has not read it, and that his book would have been better if he had. But it is a very good one as it is.

Alan Gibson

Goldie for Hampshire

Chris Goldie, the Cambridge University wicketkeeper has joined Hampshire on a two-year contract as reserve to Bob Parkes. Goldie, aged 22, was born in Johannesburg and earned blues in 1981 and 1982.

STUDENT SPORT

New body to unite home countries

A milestone has been passed with the formation of a new student sports body merging the representative authorities of universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The annual meeting of the British Universities Sports Federation (BUSF) ended 21 years of division when it agreed on the British-based organization.

The structure and funding of the body—as yet nameless—was the centre of good-humoured and lively debate at the conference. In the end

the recommendations of the BUSF work party—that the body be centrally based but with guarantees for the autonomy of each country—were accepted.

It might appear that all that remained was for the various athletic unions to disband and reconstitute themselves under the umbrella of the new organization. But there are personnel to consider and trusts and funds to re-allocate.

An opportunity was presented to

observers from the non-university sector to comment on student sport. Harry Wadswell, the chairman of British Colleges, said: "My organization was ready and willing to enter into negotiations to form one student sports organisation." Jenny Chrystie, the president of the British Polytechnic Sports Association, cautiously welcomed the change, saying: "We are a coherent body and naturally interested in the movement of one student sports body."

VOLLEYBALL

Irish enter Spring Cup

By Paul Harrison

Northern Ireland have entered the women's section of the Spring Cup, the premier western European volleyball tournament, for the first time. Next year's competition will be held in England and the Irish have been drawn in the same preliminary pool as the hosts.

England, Northern Ireland, Austria and Spain play in Colchester from March 27 to 29, while Scotland play in Leeds with West Germany who are the runners-up in the last Spring Cup. Sweden and the women's game in England; the English Volleyball Association's national squad are undergoing special preparation. They will take part in the tournament with matches against Scotland across the border on March 12 and 13 and the weekend before the Spring Cup starts they will take part in a tournament in Luxembourg.

The tournament has been linked with a programme of development in the women's game in England; there will be demonstration matches, new leagues, coaching courses and a campaign to have the sport recognized in school curricula. In addition, Channel 4 is interested in covering the final stages of the Spring Cup.

YACHTING

British crew keep in touch

Melbourne (Agencies).—The British pair, Joe Richards and Peter Allan, finished fourth in the fourth heat of the Flynn Dutchman world championship here yesterday.

With three heats left Sweden's Bengt Hagander and Magnus Kjell are still the overall leaders after finishing second behind the West German brothers, Jorg and Eckhart Diesch, the 1976 Olympic gold medalists in this class.

FOURTH HEAT: 1. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. Hagander and M. Kjell (Sweden) 2. J. Richards and P. Allan (Great B. 3. N. Boud and D. Boud (France) 4. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 5. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 6. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 7. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 8. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 9. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 10. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 11. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 12. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 13. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 14. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 15. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 16. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 17. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 18. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 19. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 20. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 21. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 22. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 23. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 24. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 25. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 26. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 27. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 28. J. and E. Diesch (West G. B. 29. J. and E. Diesch (West G. 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The new Mazda 626: a balanced package

Val D'Isere (Reuier)—Two men's World Cup downhill ski races scheduled for the Northern Alpine resort of Morzine tomorrow and Sunday will now be held here. Lack of snow had forced the switch. The World Cup women's downhill and supergiant slalom events, originally scheduled for January 8 and 9 in Pfronten, West Germany, will now take place in Verbier in Switzerland.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- News After Noon: with Richard Whitmore and Pam Britton; 12.57 Financial Report. And sub-titled news headlines.
1. Pebble Mew at One: the magazine show from the foyer-studio.
2. King Ruler: for the toddlers; 1.50 Brit-A-Bran.
3. International Tennis: Live coverage from the Royal Albert Hall, in London, of the Barritt World Doubles Championship. Today's play will decide who will go forward to the semi-finals with John Peers.
4. Grange Hill: Episode 2 in this comprehensive school series; 5.35 With the Wisp.
5. News: with Jan Leeming. And weather.
6. South East at Six; 6.22 Antidote. With Sportsweek at 6.45.
7. The Superstars: The second semi-final of the Ferguson Superstars Championship, from South. Rugby and football players compete against each other in a variety of sporting competitions. In the footballer's ranks: Allan Clarke, Derek Parlane, Paul Hart, Geoff Palmer, Mel Eves, Joe Gallagher, Ian Horsford, John Burridge, and Chris Garland. The rugby experts: Fran Cotton, Marcus Rose, Bob Hesford, Nick Jeavons, Steve Smith, Graham Price, Phil Barnett, Jeff Squire and Ian McLaughlin.
8. The Fourth Arm: First episode in a 12-part drama series set during the Second World War. It is the work of the same team (director: Viktors Rittels, and writers: John Branson and Gerard Glaister) behind the very successful Secret Army series a couple of years back. It's the story of a British mission to occupied France to sabotage a German V1 rocket complex. The group leader is played by Paul Shelley and Philip Latham plays his intelligence chief in London. The cast also includes Gerald James, Gregory the Poiner and Marianne Lawrence.
9. Points of View: Barry Took has fun with viewers' letters.
10. News: with John Humphrys. And weather prospects.
11. Love Story: Mr. Right, Fourth, and final, instalment of this adaptation of Celia Dale's novel A Spring of Love, about a spinster's friendship with a stranger. Co-starring David Hayman, Carolyn Pickles and Liz Smith.
12. Dahrendorf on Britain: Penultimate documentary in this series in which Ralf Dahrendorf, Director of the London School of Economics, offers his views on how Britain's decline could be halted and even reversed. Tonight: the question of national identity.
13. International Tennis: Further coverage of the Barritt World Doubles Championship at the Royal Albert Hall in London; 11.42 News.
14. Film: The Killing of a Chinese Bookie (1977) Gambling world drama, directed by John Cassavese and starring Ben Gazzara as the strip club owner who finds that the only way he can settle his debts with a local mob is to perform a murder. Co-starring Timothy Applegate, Gary, Aziz Khan and Meade Roberts. Ends at 1.35am.

ITV/LONDON

- 8.30 Out of School: Sping birds, vicim, aged 14; 9.30 Black Country songs and jokes; 10.15 The politics of democracy; 10.35 Coastal dunes in the Ainsdale area.
- 11.00 Sesame Street: An enjoyable way for children to pull themselves up into the branches of the Tree of Knowledge.
- 12.00 The Munch Bunch: For the very young viewer; 12.10 Rainbows: Start of a new series for the little ones, combining fun with learning. The theme today: the word that blows; 12.30 Johnny's Animal Opera: with Johnny Morris.
- 1.00 News: 1.20 Thames area news.
- 1.30 About Britain: The Times' investigation into this relatively recent method of acquiring a holiday spot in the sun for a fixed period in the year.
- 2.00 A Play A Profile of the New York: Play by play of the night's action, with a focus on the theatre.
- 2.30 Film: The Private Navy of Sergeant O'Farrell (1968). Little-known Bob Hope comedy, with the comedian as the sergeant in charge of soldiers left on a Pacific island. The ship bringing in their beer is sunk by a Japanese submarine. Co-starring Phyllis Diller, Jeffrey Hunter and Gina Lollobrigida. Director: Frank Tashler.
- 4.00 Rainbows: a second showing of the show already screened at 12.10 this morning; 4.20 Dangermouse.
- 4.25 Antidote Express: A visit to the 2,000-year-old San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park in California; 4.45 FreeTime: Leisure activities for the youngsters. Motor racing news and excitement at Thruxton Circuit in Hampshire.
- 5.15 The Gaffer: Comedy series with Bill Maynard as the boss of a small engineering firm (1).
- 5.45 News: 6.00 The 6 o'clock Show: The lighter side of the news, with a big quiz, Aspel and Janet Street-Porter in the studio, and Andy Price and Danny Baker doing the reporting.
- 7.00 Family Fortunes: The return of the Bob Monkhouse quiz show, with big prizes.
- 7.30 The Fall Guy: Return of the American drama series starring Lee Majors as the Hollywood stuntman who, when not stunting, works as a bounty hunter. Tonight, a chauffeur is blamed for the murder of a country and western singer's ghost writer.
- 8.30 That's My Boy: The return of the comedy series about a married couple (Christopher Blake and Jennifer Saunders) and their husbands' two daughters (Mollie Sugden and Clara Richards).
- 9.00 The Gentle Touch: Police drama series starring Jill Gascoine. Tonight, it is a blow for Maggie's son (Nigel Rathbone) when his friend, a police officer, is killed.
- 10.00 News: from ITN.
- 10.30 9 to 5: Office life comedy series, with secretaries against the boss.
- 11.00 The London Programme: The programme has acquired, exclusively, the unpublished details of what one London borough would do in the event of a nuclear attack. This is both a 'before the bomb' and 'after the bomb' visualization.
- 11.40 South of the Border: Entertainment round-up, with the comedian Ian Galloway, the cabaret group Poodle Snatchers and the comedian David Rapaport.
- 12.10 Gossip: Old western series, with James Arness.
- 1.10 Close: a reading from Sir Michael Hordern.

THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR (Channel 4, 8.00pm)



Paul McGann as Graham Gaskin in BBC2, 8.00pm

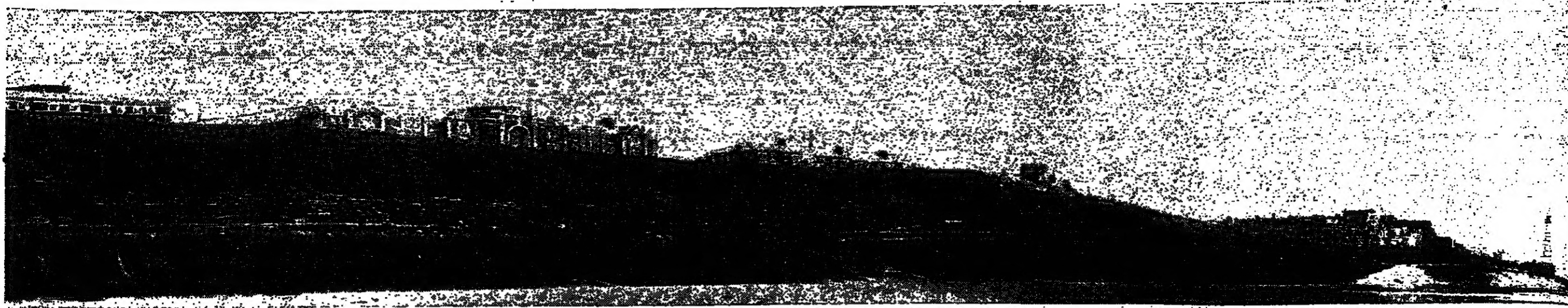
THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR (Channel 4, 8.00pm). A six-hour documentary from Granada, has been broken down into six one-hour episodes. The first, screened tonight, deals with the prelude to the conflict. It is not designed for those who prefer their medicine to be rendered palatable and their facts diet to be predigested. It is not, in other words, a history lesson without tears. The five years of political turmoil that preceded the three years of bloodshed by my attempts at easy elucidation such as dropping the combatants into camps neatly labelled fascist and communist. Considering the daunting complexities of the subject, Neil Aspinwall's script is remarkably successful in charting the tortuous routes by which the Nationalist and Republican forces arrived at their savage confrontation in 1936. The approach, thus far at any rate, is non-partisan. The archival material, much of it new to me, has been skillfully integrated with the interviews.

CHOICE

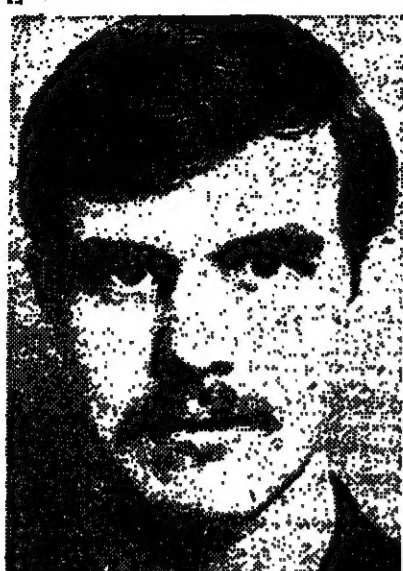
● "How many of these Graham Gaskins are there?" bleakly asks Paul McGann, the television manifestation of Mr Gaskin in Stephen Aspinwall's drama-documentary GASKIN (BBC 2, 9.00pm). Judging by this appalling tale of the youth who spent 17 years as a child of the state, tossed about like a cork in the ebb and flow of social sciences callousness, the existence of even one Graham Gaskin is a shameful stain on the conscience of what we like to think of as a caring nation. If this isn't campaigning television, responsibly conducted, then I don't know what is.

RADIO 4

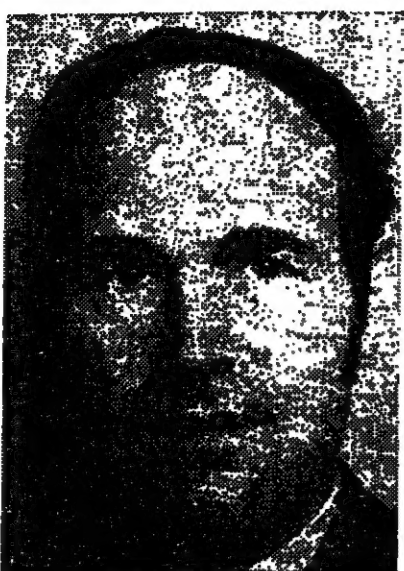
- 5.00 News Briefing
5.10 Farming Today
5.25 Shipping Forecast
5.30 Today, including 6.45 Prayer for the Day
5.45 News: 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 1.55, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 4.55, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 1.55, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 4.55, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 1.55, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 4.55, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 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Aftermath: the sea front at Blackpool yesterday, calmer after the heavy seas of Wednesday, in which four people were lost.



PC Gordon Coumley



PC Colin Morrison



WPC Angela Bradley



PC Patrick Abram



PC Martin Hewitson

Inquiries ordered into equipment

From Ronald Kershaw and Arthur Osman, Blackpool

As the search for survivors of Blackpool's drowning tragedy continued yesterday, Blackpool Corporation ordered a report on the seafront lifesaving equipment. A senior officer from the Fleetwood division of the Lancashire police force has also begun an inquiry into equipment on the North Shore.

Chief officers of the council met yesterday morning to consider suggestions that the equipment may have been ineffective.

Afterwards Mr Tom Percival, the mayor of Blackpool, said a full report was being prepared but he added: "There are more than 100 lifebelts sited along the full length of the promenade."

The lifebelts are spaced 20 yds apart on easily identified upright posts along the "Golden Mile" between north and central piers where most holidaymakers use the beach. On the outer edges of the three-mile sea front which gets less

crowded in summer, lifebelts are about 150 yds apart.

The drowning happened opposite Uncle Tom's Cabin a well known North Shore public house, over a mile from the centre of the town.

An official of Blackpool's technical services department said: "The belts are inspected by

the beach patrol every day during the season from May to October and every weekend during the winter."

The belts are of heavy duty plastic and could be thrown by an average male at least 20 yds on a calm day. They have a yellow nylon line around the edge for survivors to cling to

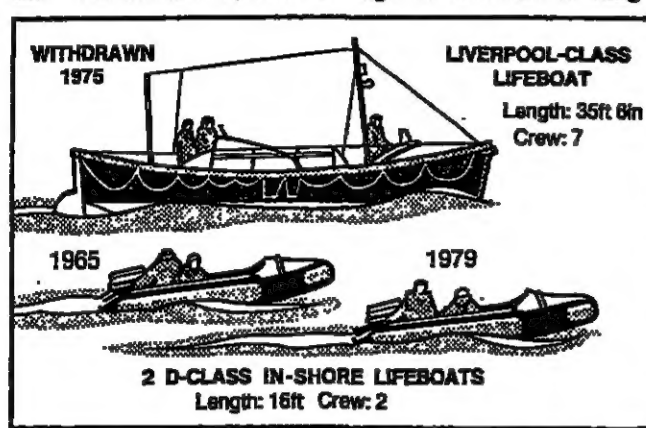
and 20 yds of heavy blue nylon rope secured to the post on shore.

An inquest will be opened at Blackpool today on the one body so far recovered and the search will continue for the others until they are found.

A senior Lancashire police officer said that the RAF rescue helicopter unit at Valley, Angsey was called within five minutes of the incident starting shortly before 2 pm on Wednesday. It took the machine about 25 minutes to arrive.

Exceptionally severe sea and weather conditions prevented use of Blackpool's two inflatable rubber lifeboats (illustrated below), introduced in 1965 and 1979, during the rescue operation. The conventional 35ft gins craft was withdrawn in 1975.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution said yesterday that the Fleetwood lifeboat could not get close enough to the victims



Five-hour battle to save four from the sea

Continued from page 1

pull we were going to lose him." They said the whole operation from the time they arrived took between 20 and 30 minutes. PC Hewitson said he had tied a rope around his middle and had been prepared to go in again but was forbidden by a senior officer.

Asked what he had seen of WPC Bradley, he said: "I saw a blue tunic in the water but it was, or what it was, I cannot say."

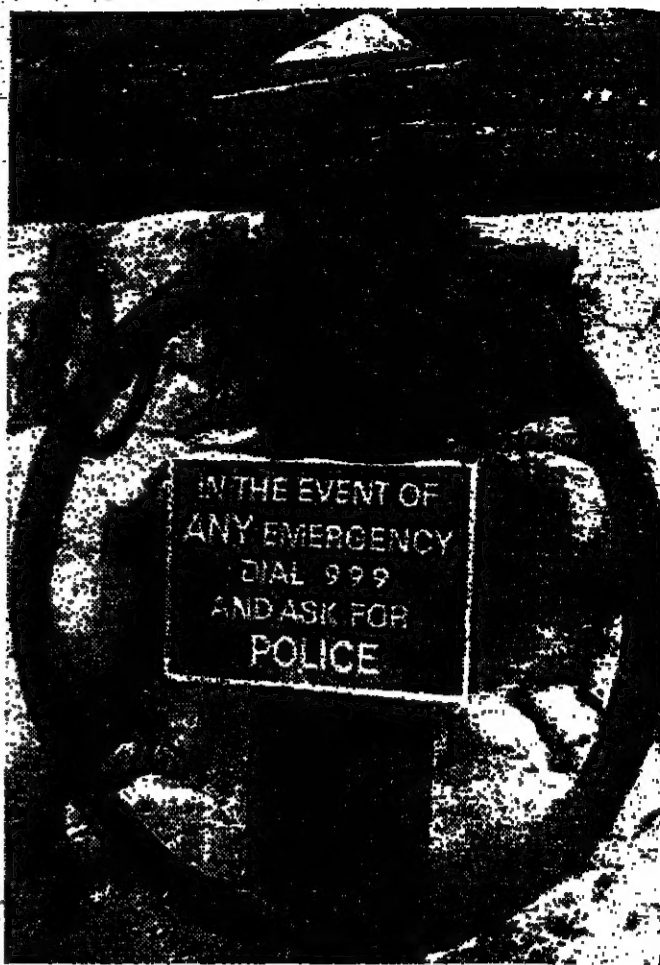
"I managed to keep contact with them, but was dragged along the sea wall by the tide. It was like being pulled by a car."

PC Fitzgerald said: "We realized from the beginning that we were up against the sea. When ever they grabbed the life belts they were wrenched from them by the force of the waves. We never lost any lines. When we threw the belts they would only land two or three feet from

the wall because of the gale." Both officers, asked if they had any doubts about going into the sea in such conditions, replied: "No more than any other police officer would have."

The rescue operation was launched shortly before 1.50 pm when Mr Robert Anthony, father of the man who died after his dog, shouted at a passer-by. The man made a 999 call from the nearest telephone box and asked for the ambulance service, who immediately alerted police at 13.48.

At 13.50 local patrol cars were sent to the scene. Simultaneously, police contacted the Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at Liverpool, which took over control of the operation. The centre immediately contacted the secretary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution at Blackpool.



A silent reminder of Wednesday's tragedy

At 14.00 he told Liverpool that the weather was too rough to launch the inflatable Gemini D-class inshore lifeboat.

At 14.00 the Coastguard asked RAF Valley, at Anglesey, to send a search aircraft.

At 14.10 a Wessex Mark II helicopter took off from RAF Valley to fly the 64 miles.

At 14.16 the Fleetwood lifeboat, nine miles away which had been placed on alert, was ordered to launch.

At 14.38 the RAF Wessex arrived at the scene and began its search.

At 14.55 the helicopter recovered a body.

At 15.06 the Fleetwood lifeboat, after completing its sweep north of Blackpool, arrived at the scene but could get no closer than 75 yards to shore.

At 16.38 the lifeboat called off its search. At 18.40 the helicopter called off its search.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

Wales and the West from the Air: aerial photographs by John White, RPS National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45; until Jan 29.

Exhibitions in progress

Paintings of the Royal West of England Academy, City Museum and Art Gallery, Brunswick Road, Gloucester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; until Jan 29.

Your Navy, Your Heritage

Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5; until Jan 15.

Last chance to see

Wildlife paintings, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester; 10 to 5; (ends tomorrow).

Objects and Figures: New Sculpture in Britain, Fruitmarket

Galleries, Market Street, Edinburgh

Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; (ends tomorrow).

Crafts '82 work by the Oxfordshire Guild of Craftsman, Museum of Oxford, St Aldates, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5; (ends tomorrow).

Paintings and drawings by Derek Fye, City Museum and Art Gallery, Priorygate, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5 (ends tomorrow).

Experimental Photography, Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5 (ends tomorrow).

Embroidery by students at West Midlands College; and Billy Meike's view of Walsall sketches and photographs of local people and places at the turn of the century; Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.45, Sat 10 to 4.45 (both end tomorrow).

Roman Mosaics in Britain: drawings by David Neal, Colchester Castle Museum, Colchester; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4 (ends tomorrow).

Paintings and ceramics by Mary Lister, and The Art of Preserving: The Metal Box Company and its History; Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefield, Banbury; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45 (ends tomorrow).

Pictures are my Life: photographs by Monty Freco, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45 (ends tomorrow).

Concert by Northern Sinfonia of England, Town Hall, Middlesbrough, 7.45.

Concert by Scottish National Orchestra, Lister Hall, Litheridge Road, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Viennese music by Ulster Orchestra, Ulster Hall, Belfast, 7.45.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.68	1.62
Austria Sch	28.15	26.15
Belgium Fr	80.75	76.25
Canada \$	2.05	1.97
Denmark Kr	13.85	13.15
Finland Mk	8.85	8.36
France Fr	11.08	10.58
Germany DM	3.96	3.73
Greece Dr	129.00	120.00
Hongkong \$	10.85	10.30
Ireland P	1.19	1.13
Italy Lira	2245.00	2145.00
Japan Yen	396.00	370.00
Netherlands Gld	4.36	4.12
Norway Kr	11.73	11.08
Portugal Esc	157.00	145.00
South Africa Rd	2.20	2.00
Spain Ptas	207.00	197.00
Sweden Kr	12.15	11.50
Switzerland Fr	3.32	3.10
USA \$	1.66	1.60
Yugoslavia Dr	128.00	118.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only. As supplied by Barclay Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 326.1

London: The FT Index closed up 2.4 at 615.1.

Food prices

After the shopping spree over Christmas and New Year, most housewives will be feeling less enthusiastic about having to provide meals for ever-hungry children on holiday. But, the freezer firm, is worth a visit as it offers a good selection of easily prepared meals. Sausage rolls, pizzas, beefburgers, fish fingers, steak and kidney pies, pork pies, flaps and pasties all make a satisfying lunch with salad, cheese and fruit. Four pound bags of oven chips at 89p are still a treat for most children. For a more substantial meal, beef roasts at £1.79 a lb are very good value.

Most supermarkets have a number of bargains. Saffron have pre-packed rump steaks and veal rib steaks reduced by 50 to 60p for a pack weighing just over a pound. Dewhurst are offering 25p a pound off rump and sirloin steaks. Presto have New Zealand lamb loin chops, whole and half leg, at 99p a lb. Saffron's selection of fruit and vegetables is good: avocados at 40p each, rosemary at 79p a pound, and something called a pomelo, which looks and tastes like a grapefruit but is very much larger. Red Santa Rosa plums are excellent either raw or cooked and at 40-50p a lb are cheaper than last year's. Look for marmalade oranges from Spain; they should be in the shops this weekend at 28-35p a pound.

Top films

Top box office films in London:
1. 101 Dalmatians
2. The Untouchables
3. The First Blood
4. The Iron Horse
5. The Great Escape
6. The Pink Panther
7. The Night Shift
8. Raiders of the Lost Ark
9. The Great Train Robbery
10. The Godfather Part II
Top five in the provinces:
1. E.T.
2. The Untouchables
3. The First Blood
4. The Iron Horse
5. The Great Escape

Compiled by Screen International

Roads

London and South-East: Earls Court: Earls Court one-way system and Old Brompton Road are likely to be extremely busy because of Boat Show. A3: Roadworks on A3, between Harefield and Uxbridge, 1600z: Bridge repairs on North Road, Hertford.

Midlands and East Angles: A1: Lane closures between Carlton-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire. A41: Temporary signals at Histon and Warrick, Leicestershire. A5: Single lane traffic on Shrewsbury to Oswestry road at Weirbrook, Shropshire.

Wales and West: M4: Roadworks between junction 34 (Llantrisant) and 35 (Pen-y-fan), Wales. M5: Major roadworks on northbound carriageway at junction 26 (A38 to Wellington and Taunton) Somerset. A36: Temporary signals at Steep Lane, Wiltshire.

North: A1 (M): Lane closure N of Scotch Corner, Yorkshire. A1: Roadworks Southbound from Boroughbridge to 5 of Plaford, Yorkshire. Lane delays. A19: Roadworks in Asker High Street, Doncaster.

South: A9: Temporary lights at Auchtermuchty, Perthshire. A92: By-pass construction between North Kinkaidy and Thornton, Fife. A81: Roadworks on Maryhill Road, Glasgow, one lane each way, 9 am to 4 pm.

Information supplied by the A.A.

The papers

Referring to the members of the Blackpool police force who died in the attempted sea rescue, The Sun says: "We can only marvel at dedication on such a scale."

It was an appalling waste of life", says the Daily Mirror. "and the horror is not lessened by the heroism of those who died."

Stamp withdrawal

In its regular review of the definitive stamp range and customer needs, the Post Office has found that four values are no longer needed: 14p (steel blue); 15p (bright blue); 16p (bright blue); 25p (purple). These four values will be withdrawn from general sale at close of business on January 14. Collectors will be able to buy the stamps for a further 12 months, or until stocks are exhausted, from philatelic sales counters or by post from the Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh, EH3 5TT.

Bond winner

The £250,000 prize in the January Premium Bond draw was won by Bond number 63N 636562; the holder lives in Plymouth.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: Cathy James, ITIS, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

Weather forecast

A strong SW airstream will cover all areas.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E England, East Angles, Midlands, Channel Islands: Scattered showers, sunny periods; wind SW, fresh to strong; max temp 5 or 6C (41 to 43F).

N Wales, NW, central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Showers, some wintry, sunny intervals; wind SW, strong; max temp 4 or 5C (39 to 41F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Scattered showers, some wintry, sunny periods; wind SW, fresh to strong; max temp 4 to 5C (39 to 41F).

SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Windy; with showers, heavy at times, snow over hills giving drifting; wind SW, strong to gale; max temp 2 to 4C (36 to 39F).

Outlook for the weekend: Rather cold with sunny intervals and showers; wintry in N, becoming milder with rain for a time, windy.

SEA PASSENGERS: S North Sea, Skerries of Dover: Wind SW to W, strong to gale; sea very rough. English Channel (E): Wind SW to W, strong; sea rough or very rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW to W, strong to gale; sea very rough.

Sun rises: 8.05am. Sun sets: 4.09pm.
Moon rises: 1.13am. Moon sets: 12.21pm.
New Moon: January 14.

Lighting-up time

London 4.30 pm to 7.30 am
Edinburgh 4.20 pm to 7.15 am
Belfast 4.10 pm to 7.05 am
Perthshire 5.20 pm to 7.50 pm

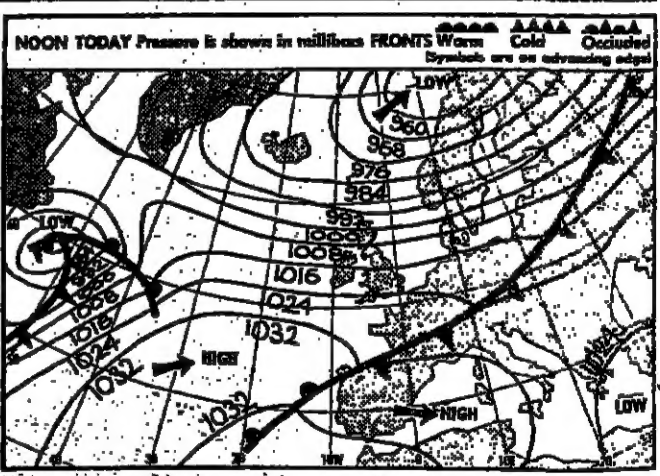
Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a cloud 1, but: 1, rain; 2, sun; 3, etc.

	C	F
Birmingham	9.3	49
Bristol	7.4	45
Cardiff	6.4	44
Edinburgh	7.4	45
Glasgow	6.4	44
London	9.3	49
Manchester	7.4	45
Newcastle	7.4	45
Nottingham	7.4	45
Oxford	7.4	45
Sheffield	7.4	45
Southampton	7.4	45
Stirling	7.4	45
Wolverhampton	7.4	45

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: London 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Bristol, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Edinburgh, 0.7C (33F); highest night temp: Glasgow, 10.4C (50.7F).



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols are on accompanying sheet.

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.40	6.3	6.23	6.3
Aberdeen	7.28	3.5	6.11	3.7
Aberystwyth	12.52	1.1	1.05	1.1
Belfast	5.25	3.0	5.43	3.4
Birkenhead	11.51	10.2	10.1	10.3
Bournemouth	1.21	5.5	5.37	5.5
Dover	5.45	5.9	5.37	5.5
Falmouth	1.21	5.5	5.37	5.5
Glasgow	7.05	4.3	6.59	4.6
Harwich	5.45	3.5	6.23	3.5
Holyhead	6.44	4.5	5.08	4.8
Hull	1.21	5.5	5.37	5.5
Leith	6.03	4.2	6.13	4.3
Liverpool	5.19	7.8	5.44	8.0
Manchester	1.10	7.4	6.13	7.4
Margate	5.48	4.3	6.41	4.1
Milford Haven	11.35	5.7	12.35	5.6
Newquay	11.35	5.7	12.35	5.6
Oban	11.10	4.1	12.36	4.2
Portsmouth	12.36	1.5	12.41	1.5
Portsmouth	5.43	4.2	6.07	4.3
Southampton	5.19	4.1	6.43	4.1
Swansea	10.20	7.8	12.38	7.7
Torquay	10.20	7.8	12.38	7.7
Wexford	5.28	3.7	6.18	3.8

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Sheffield	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Cardiff	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
London	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Manchester	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Newcastle	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Nottingham	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Oxford	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Sheffield	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Southampton	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Stirling	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Wolverhampton	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5

Abroad

Abroad

MIDDAY: s, clouds; c, clear; f, fair; b, fog; r, rain; s, snow.

	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
Algeria	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Alexandria	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Amman	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Baghdad	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Bombay	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Buenos Aires	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Calcutta	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Cairo	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Colon	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Hong Kong	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
London	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Lyons	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Madrid	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Moscow	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Paris	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Peking	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Rangoon	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
San Francisco	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Shanghai	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Singapore	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Sourabaya	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Tientsin	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5
Yokohama	19	10	10	5	19	10	10	5